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Reference	IOR/L/PS/12/1446
Title	Coll 1/7 'Protectorate Tribes: Relations with HMG; Conference of Tribal Chiefs'
Date(s)	24 Feb 1931-1 Jul 1935 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English in Latin
Extent and Format	1 file (61 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	<u>Unknown</u>

About this record

The file contains reports of the Aden Resident (George Stewart Symes, later Bernard Reilly) on the Second, Third and Fourth Lahej Conferences of the Tribal Chiefs of the Aden Protectorate (British Protected Tribes in Southern Arabia); plus copies of the opening and closing conference addresses, and correspondence with the Secretary of State for India regarding British policy.

The reports on the Second Conference (ff 50-61) discuss the following: frontier intelligence and protection; tolls and public security on caravan routes; the entertainment of subordinate Chiefs and the education of their sons at Aden; suggestions for the settlement of inter-tribal disputes; border disputes with Yemen, and the military actions of the Imam of Yemen; and King Ibn Sa'ūd's control of the Government of Asir.

Two dispatches from the Resident (ff 43-49) regarding the following: the settlement of tribal disputes, and the suggestion that a small council be appointed by the Chiefs for this purposes; Zeidi military demonstrations in the Beihan region, and a proposal to send Political Officer Lieutenant-Colonel Lake to conduct an investigation.

The reports on the Third Conference (ff 25-42) discuss the following: the adoption of rules of procedure for the settlement of inter-tribal disputes; treaty discussions with the Imam of Yemen; and a scheme for the medical instruction of selected tribesmen. Translated draft rules of procedure are appended to the correspondence.

The reports on the Fourth Conference (ff 2-24) discuss the following: the Anglo-Yemen Treaty (Treaty of San'a) of 1934; and the establishment of a college for the education of the sons of Tribal Chiefs.

The file includes a divider which gives a list of correspondence references contained within the file by year. This is found at the end of the correspondence (folio one).



Previous File: 1859
Next File: 29

IOR: L/P/PS/12/1446

No. 1
File 4

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL) DEPARTMENT.
COLLECTION.

GENERAL HEADING: Aden

SUB-HEAD: Protectorate Tribes
Relations with H.M.G.
Conference of Tribal Chiefs.

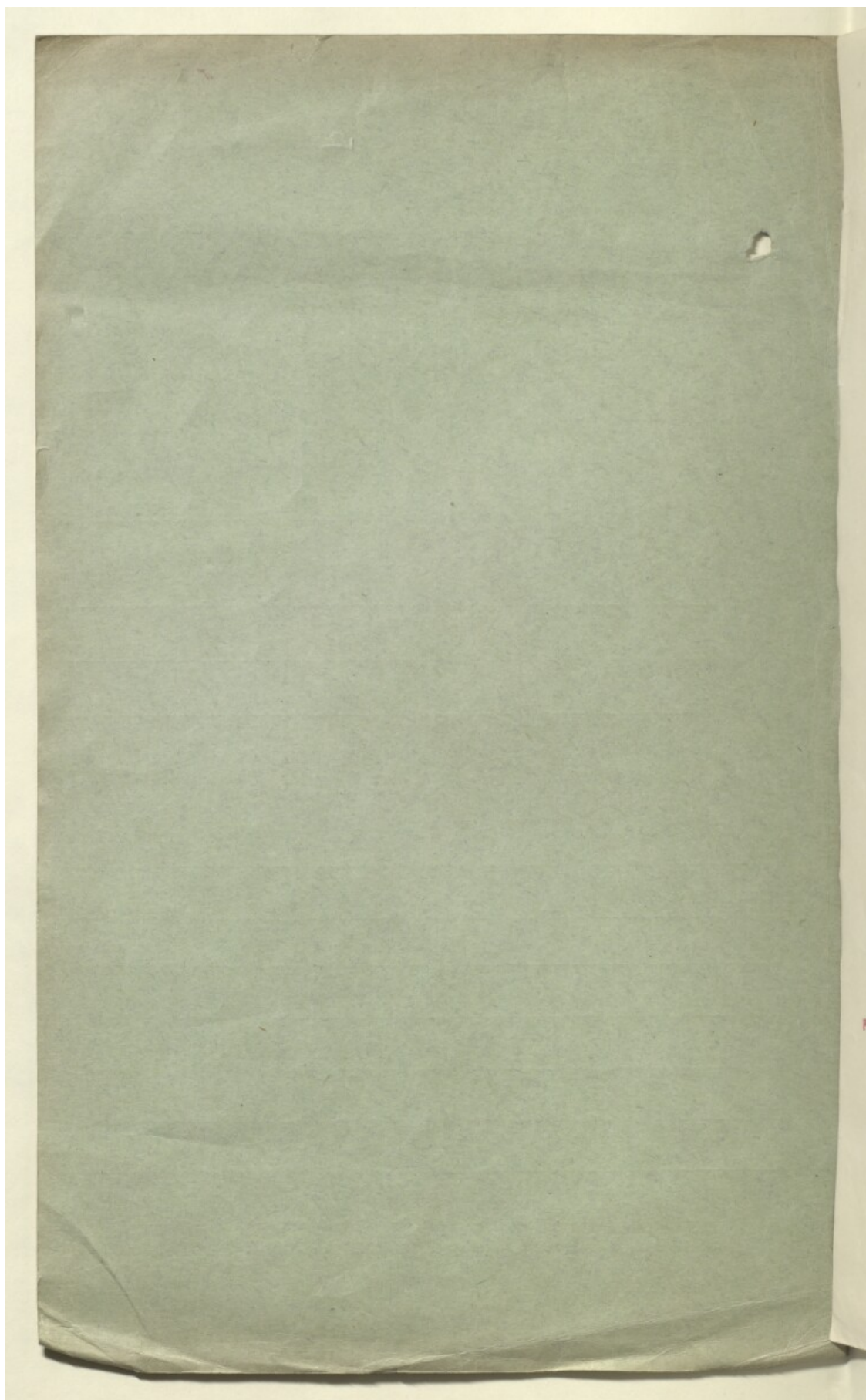
Notes:

This File contains the following papers:—

YEAR.	P. Z.	1122	1614	3214	5455
1931	P. Z.	✓	✓	✓	✓
1935	P. Z.	3974			
19	P.				
19	P.				
19	P.				
19	P.				
19	P.				
19	P.				

Papers may be removed from or placed within this File only by the Political Registry.

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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P. Z.
3974/35

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 193 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Aden Protectorate
Under Secretary			
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	18-6.	ms.	Conference of Protectorate
Under Secretary.....			Chiefs held at Lahaj in
Secretary of State....			April, 1935.

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

This conference was the fourth of its kind and the first to be held since the conclusion of the Anglo-Yemen Treaty of February 1934 which was of course an event of much importance for the Aden Protectorate Chiefs. Copies of the addresses read by the Resident at the opening and closing of the conference, which are of some general interest, are enclosed in Sir Bernard Reilly's despatch. The conference was successful in settling a number of inter-tribal disputes. Copies of the speech made by the Resident at the

SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

Previous papers :—

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opening of the new school at Aden for the
sons of Protectorate Chiefs and of a
loyal ^{silver Jubilee} message to the King from the Chiefs
assembled at the Conference, are also
enclosed in the despatch.

J.E. Grombie

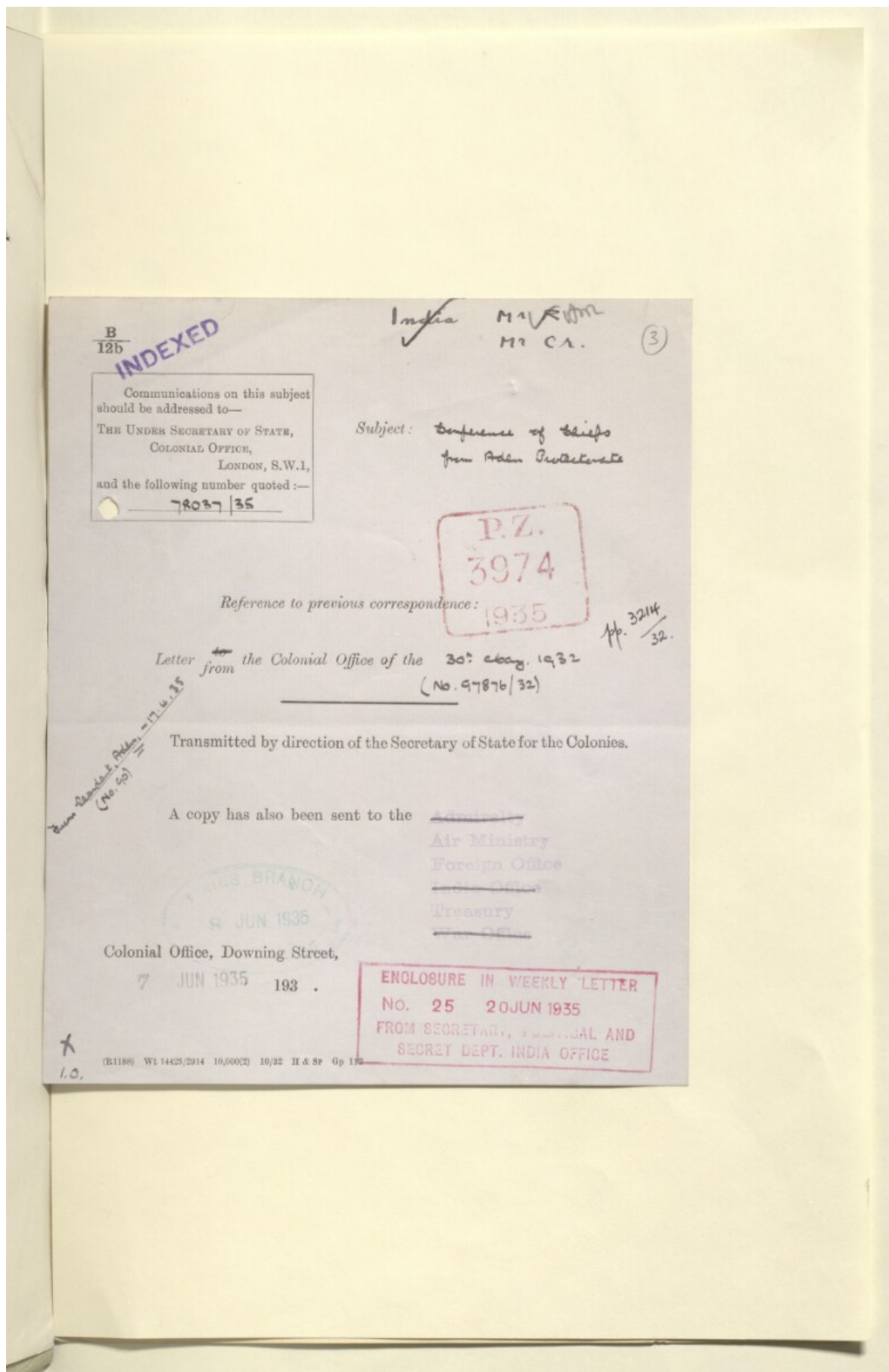
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POLITICAL COMMITTEE

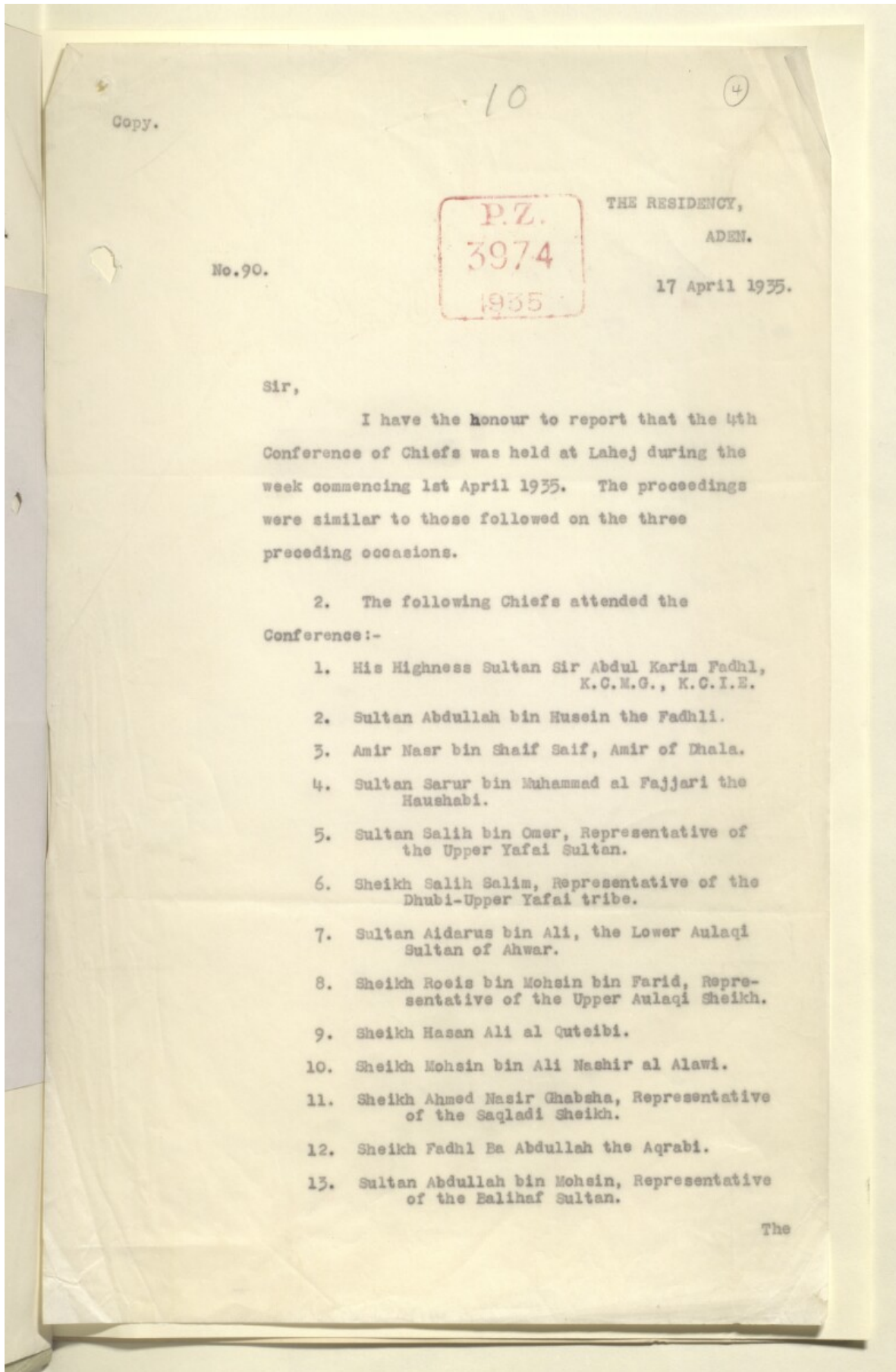
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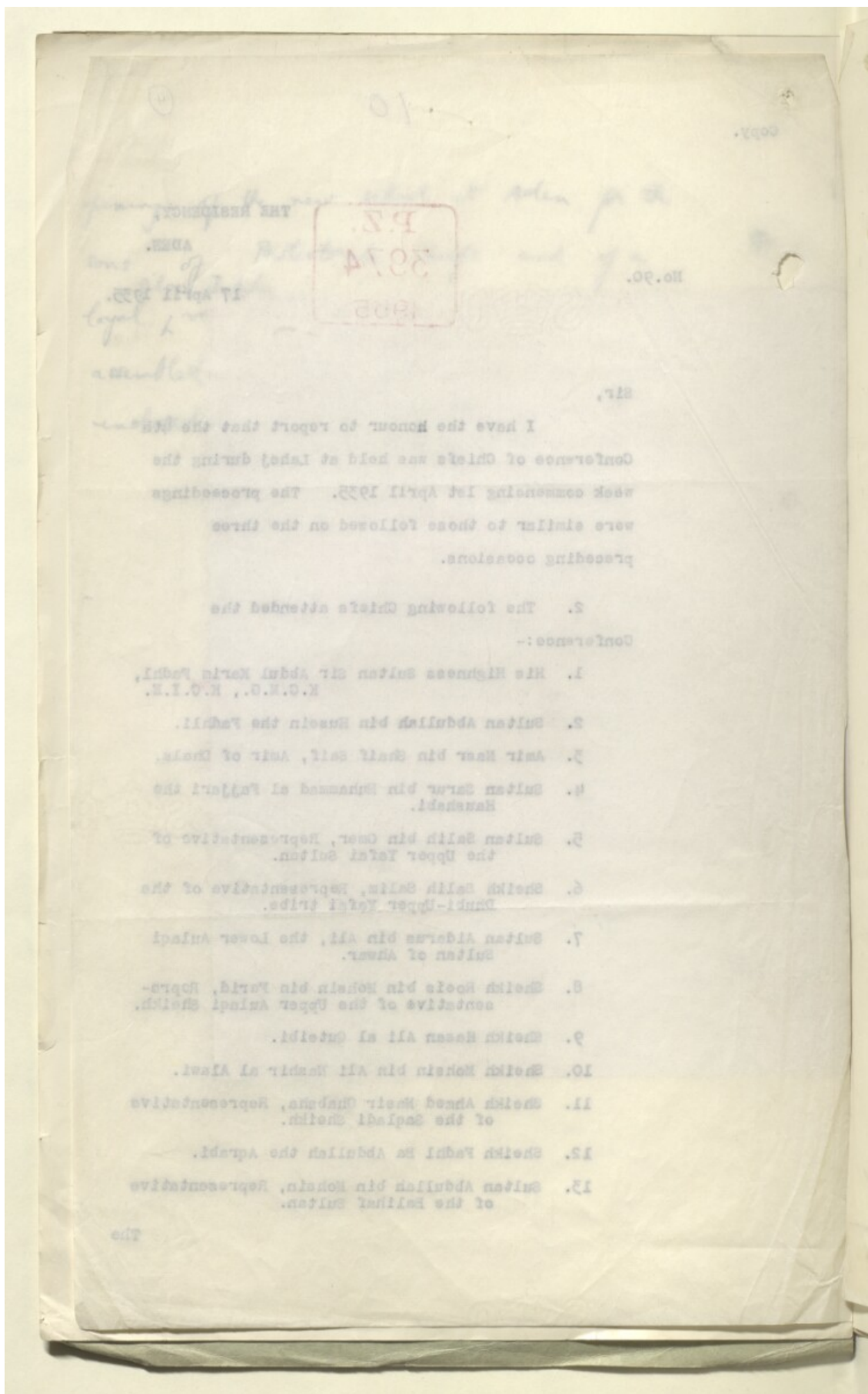
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opening of the new school at Aden for the
sons of Protectorate Chiefs and of a
Silver Jubilee
loyal & m
assembled
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The Upper 'Aulaqi and 'Audhali Sultans, who had been invited, were unavoidably absent, and the Hadhrami and Bu'si Sheikhs were kept away by a tribal feud. The Lower Yaf'a Sultan, and the Chiefs of the Mausatta, Maflahi, sections of Upper Yaf'a were not invited as they are at present under a ban from Aden, as reported in paragraphs 3172 and 3190 of the Political Intelligence Summary dated 6th and 20th February respectively.

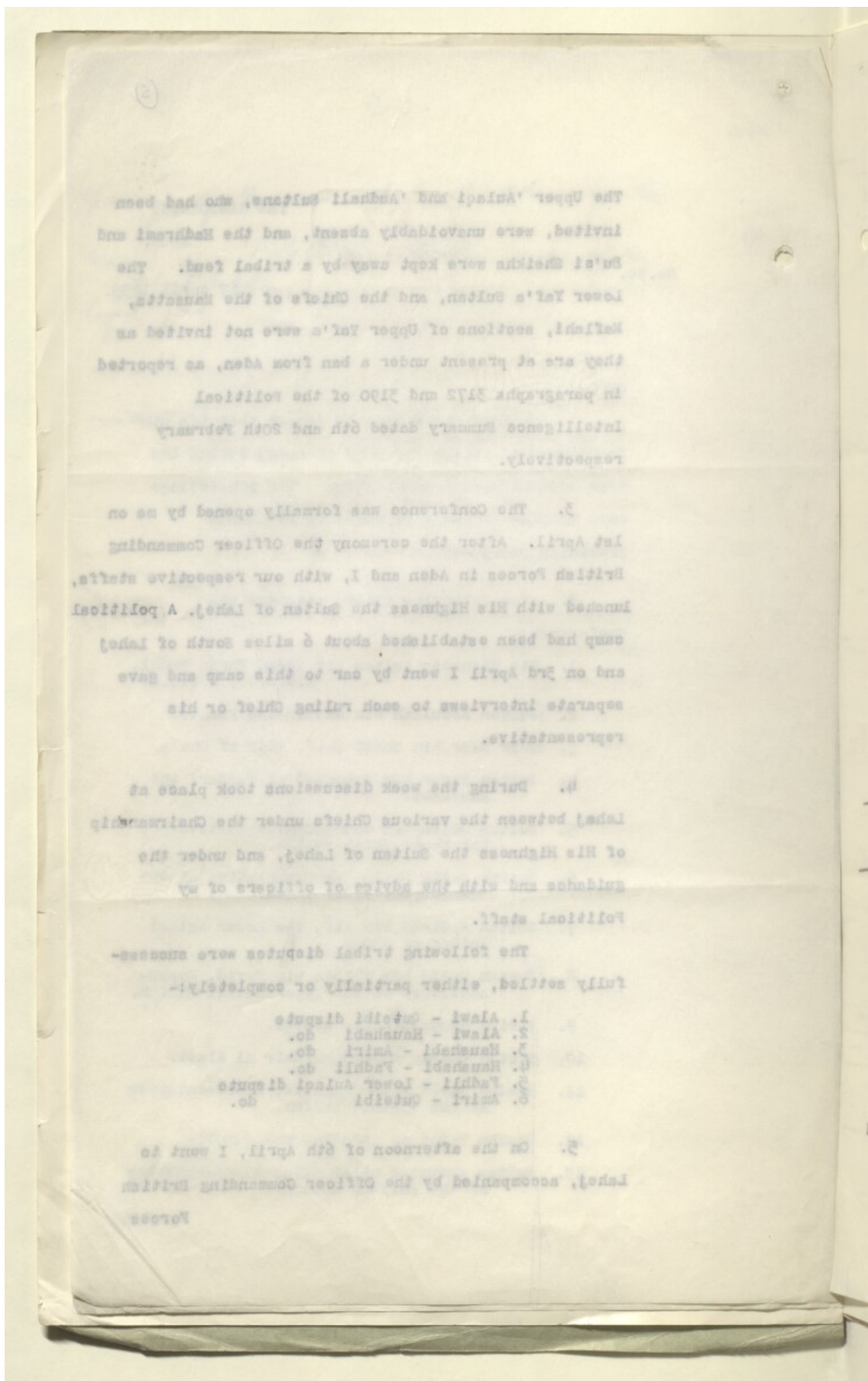
3. The Conference was formally opened by me on 1st April. After the ceremony the Officer Commanding British Forces in Aden and I, with our respective staffs, lunched with His Highness the Sultan of Lahej. A political camp had been established about 6 miles South of Lahej and on 3rd April I went by car to this camp and gave separate interviews to each ruling Chief or his representative.

4. During the week discussions took place at Lahej between the various Chiefs under the Chairmanship of His Highness the Sultan of Lahej, and under the guidance and with the advice of officers of my Political staff.

The following tribal disputes were successfully settled, either partially or completely:-

1. Alawi - Quteibi dispute
2. Alawi - Haushabi do.
3. Haushabi - Amiri do.
4. Haushabi - Fadhlī do.
5. Fadhlī - Lower Aulaqi dispute
6. Amiri - Quteibi do.

5. On the afternoon of 6th April, I went to Lahej, accompanied by the Officer Commanding British Forces





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Forces in Aden, to close the Conference. At the conclusion of the closing ceremony His Highness gave a garden party in the palace grounds to the Chiefs and their retainers at which the Officer Commanding British Forces in Aden, and I together with our respective staffs were present.

6. The Conference proceedings were followed by the opening by me of the Aden Protectorate College for the Sons and relations of Chiefs, a brief account of which was given in paragraph 3260 of the Political Intelligence Summary for the week ending 10th April 1935.

7. As on previous occasions, the satisfactory conduct of the Conference was largely due to the tact and hospitality of His Highness the Sultan of Lahej. The support and assistance accorded to me by the Officer Commanding British Forces in Aden, and his staff were of the greatest value and I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of them.

8. I enclose copies of my addresses to the Chiefs at the opening and closing of the Conference, and of my address at the opening of the College. I also enclose a translation of a Loyal Address to His Majesty the King from the Chiefs who were present at the Conference.

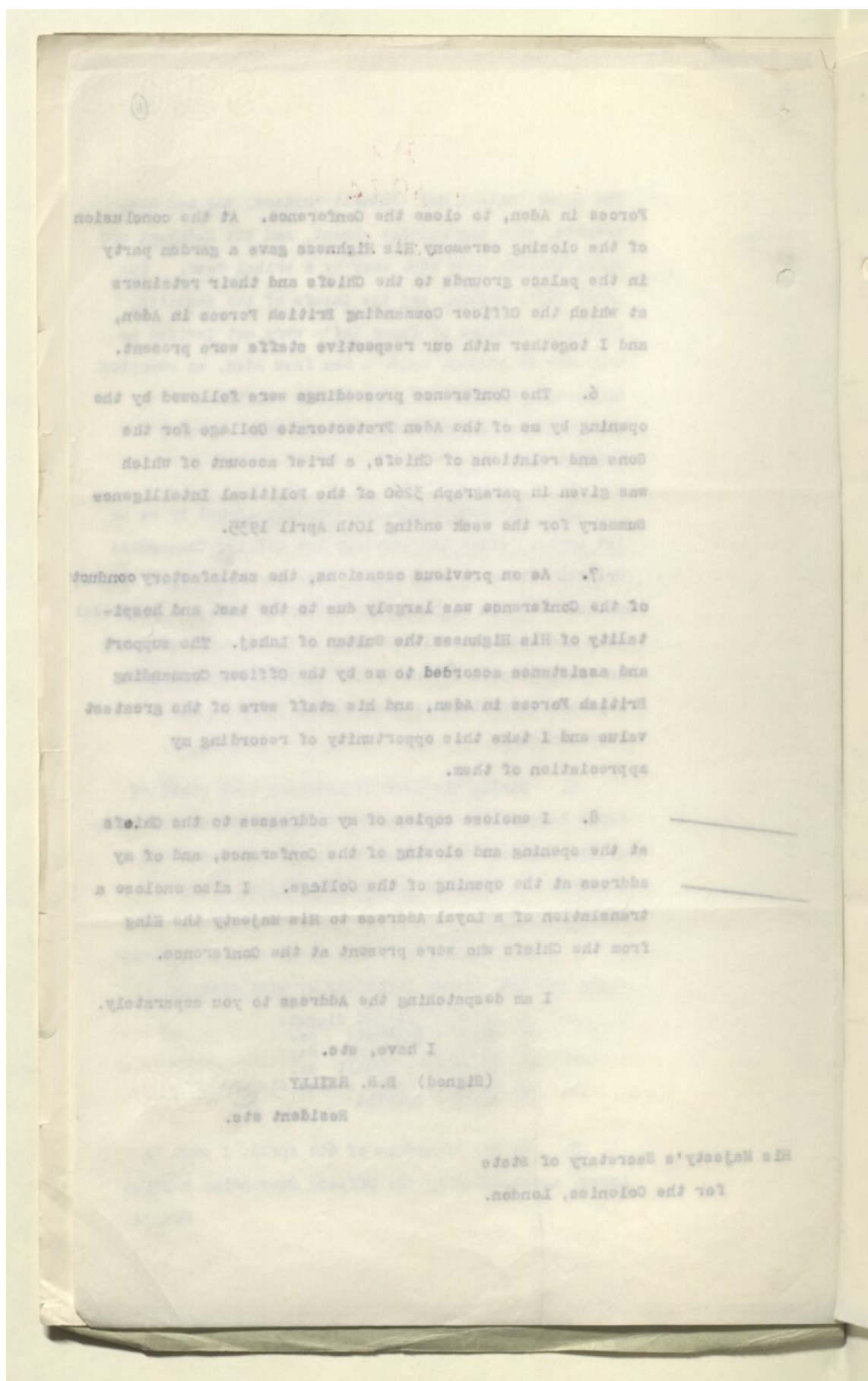
I am despatching the Address to you separately.

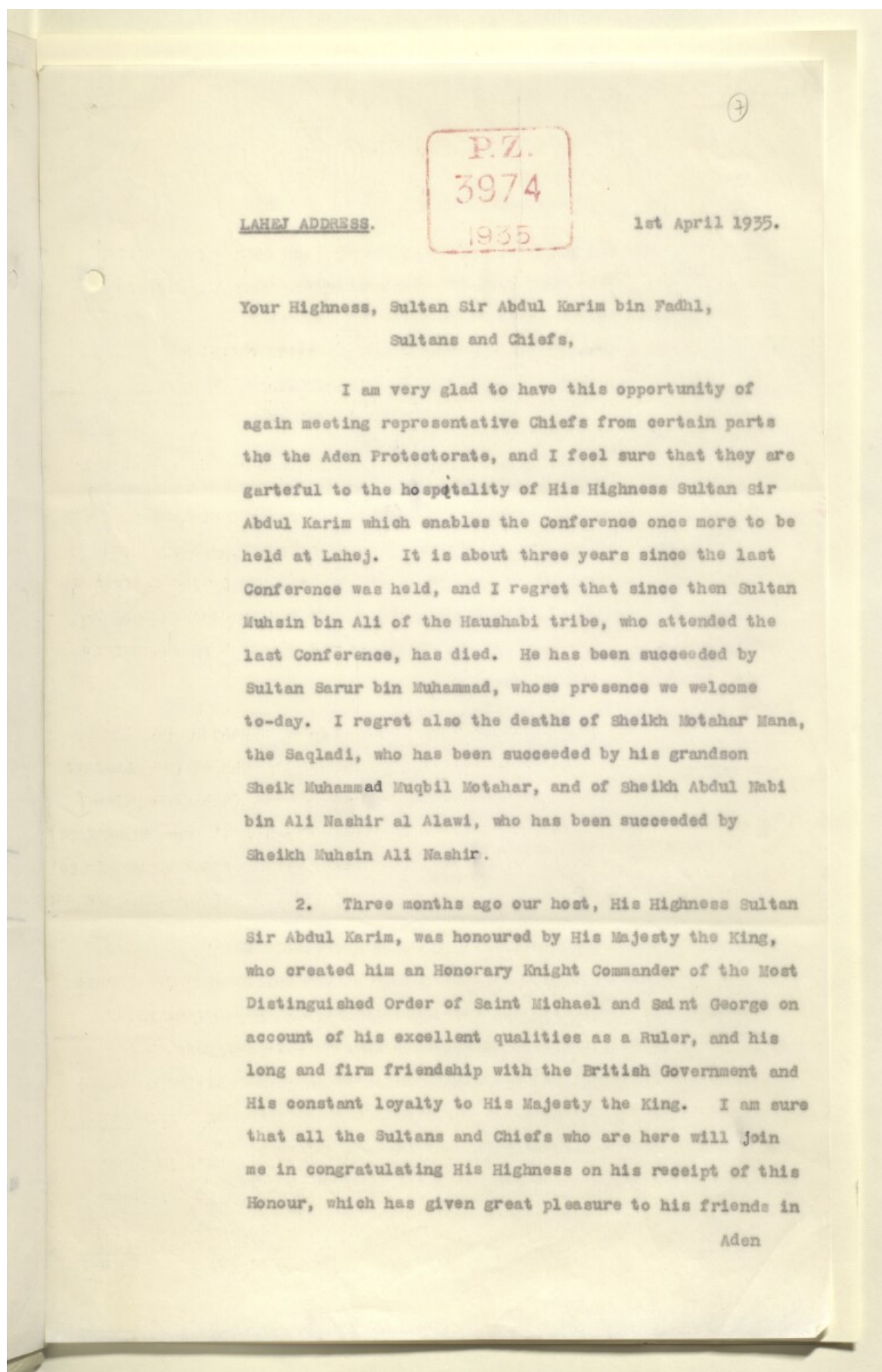
I have, etc.

(Signed) E.R. REILLY

Resident etc.

His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.





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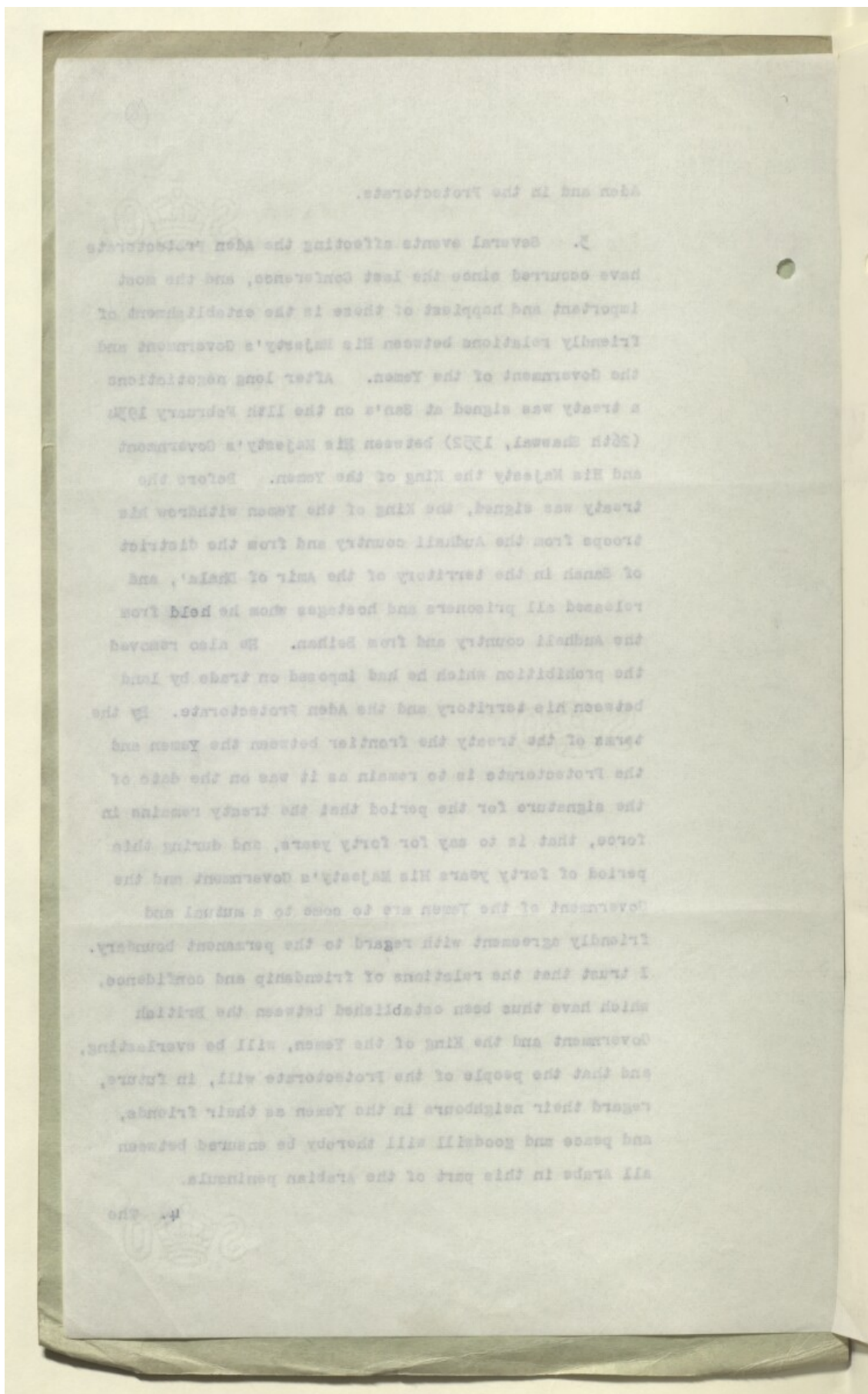


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Aden and in the Protectorate.

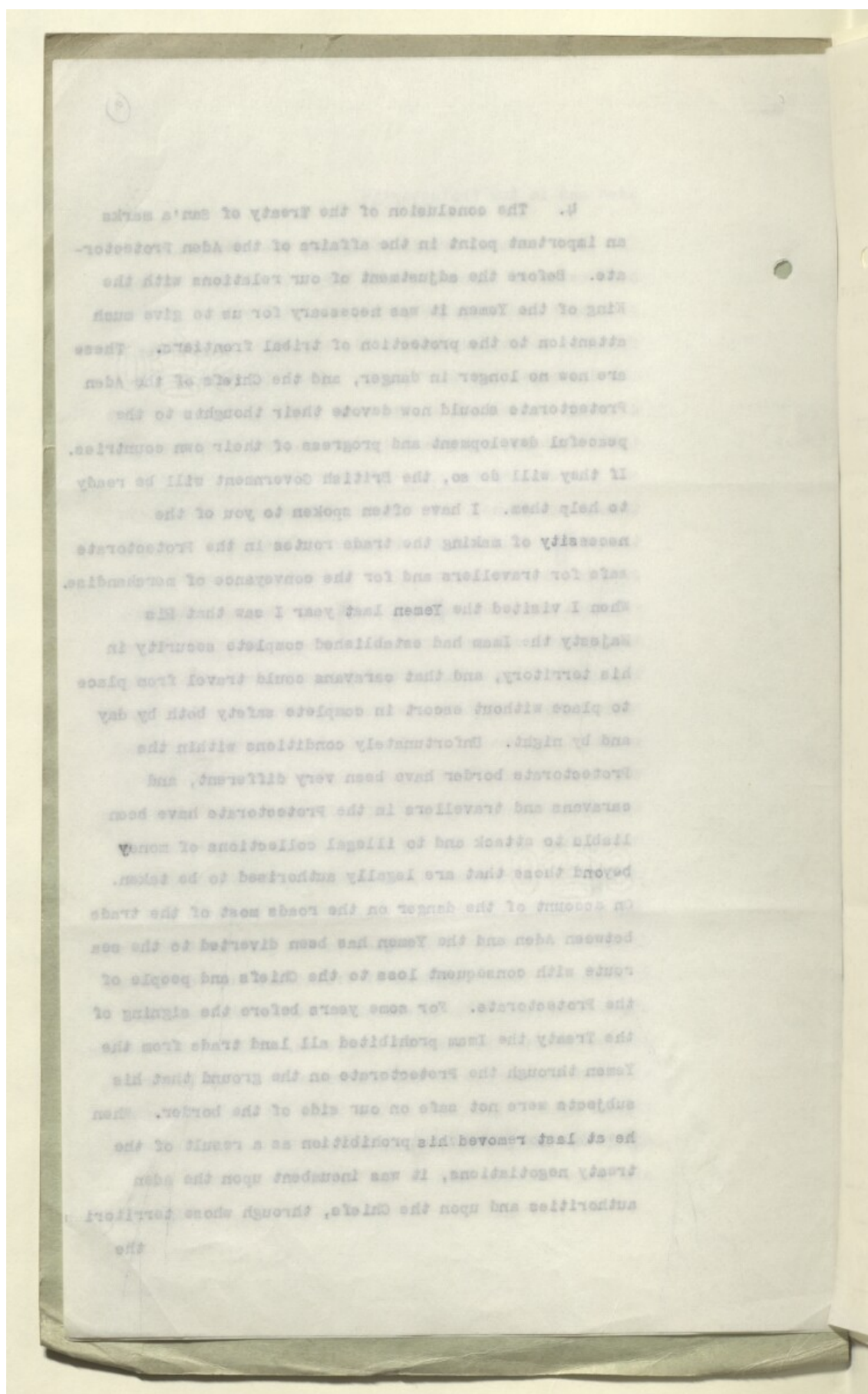
3. Several events affecting the Aden Protectorate have occurred since the last Conference, and the most important and happiest of these is the establishment of friendly relations between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Yemen. After long negotiations a treaty was signed at San'a on the 11th February 1934 (26th Shawwal, 1352) between His Majesty's Government and His Majesty the King of the Yemen. Before the treaty was signed, the King of the Yemen withdrew his troops from the Audhali country and from the district of Sanah in the territory of the Amir of Dhala', and released all prisoners and hostages whom he held from the Audhali country and from Beihan. He also removed the prohibition which he had imposed on trade by land between his territory and the Aden Protectorate. By the terms of the treaty the frontier between the Yemen and the Protectorate is to remain as it was on the date of the signature for the period that the treaty remains in force, that is to say for forty years, and during this period of forty years His Majesty's Government and the Government of the Yemen are to come to a mutual and friendly agreement with regard to the permanent boundary. I trust that the relations of friendship and confidence, which have thus been established between the British Government and the King of the Yemen, will be everlasting, and that the people of the Protectorate will, in future, regard their neighbours in the Yemen as their friends, and peace and goodwill will thereby be ensured between all Arabs in this part of the Arabian peninsula.

4. The





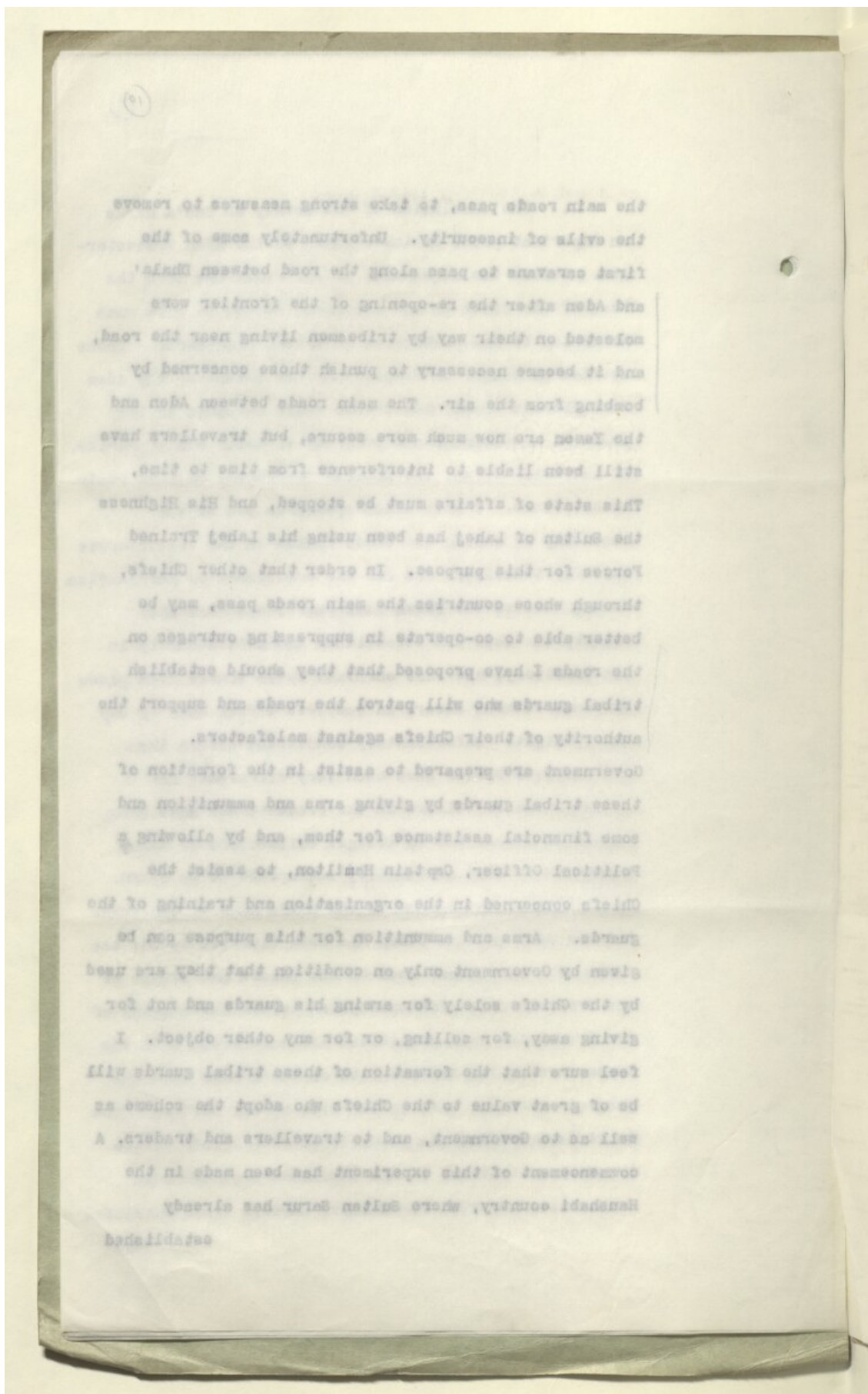
4. The conclusion of the Treaty of San'a marks an important point in the affairs of the Aden Protectorate. Before the adjustment of our relations with the King of the Yemen it was necessary for us to give much attention to the protection of tribal frontiers. These are now no longer in danger, and the Chiefs of the Aden Protectorate should now devote their thoughts to the peaceful development and progress of their own countries. If they will do so, the British Government will be ready to help them. I have often spoken to you of the necessity of making the trade routes in the Protectorate safe for travellers and for the conveyance of merchandise. When I visited the Yemen last year I saw that His Majesty the Imam had established complete security in his territory, and that caravans could travel from place to place without escort in complete safety both by day and by night. Unfortunately conditions within the Protectorate border have been very different, and caravans and travellers in the Protectorate have been liable to attack and to illegal collections of money beyond those that are legally authorised to be taken. On account of the danger on the roads most of the trade between Aden and the Yemen has been diverted to the sea route with consequent loss to the Chiefs and people of the Protectorate. For some years before the signing of the Treaty the Imam prohibited all land trade from the Yemen through the Protectorate on the ground that his subjects were not safe on our side of the border. When he at last removed his prohibition as a result of the treaty negotiations, it was incumbent upon the Aden authorities and upon the Chiefs, through whose territory the





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the main roads pass, to take strong measures to remove the evils of insecurity. Unfortunately some of the first caravans to pass along the road between Dhala' and Aden after the re-opening of the frontier were molested on their way by tribesmen living near the road, and it became necessary to punish those concerned by bombing from the air. The main roads between Aden and the Yemen are now much more secure, but travellers have still been liable to interference from time to time, This state of affairs must be stopped, and His Highness the Sultan of Lahej has been using his Lahej Trained Forces for this purpose. In order that other Chiefs, through whose countries the main roads pass, may be better able to co-operate in suppressing outrages on the roads I have proposed that they should establish tribal guards who will patrol the roads and support the authority of their Chiefs against malefactors. Government are prepared to assist in the formation of these tribal guards by giving arms and ammunition and some financial assistance for them, and by allowing a Political Officer, Captain Hamilton, to assist the Chiefs concerned in the organisation and training of the guards. Arms and ammunition for this purpose can be given by Government only on condition that they are used by the Chiefs solely for arming his guards and not for giving away, for selling, or for any other object. I feel sure that the formation of these tribal guards will be of great value to the Chiefs who adopt the scheme as well as to Government, and to travellers and traders. A commencement of this experiment has been made in the Haushabi country, where Sultan Sarur has already established



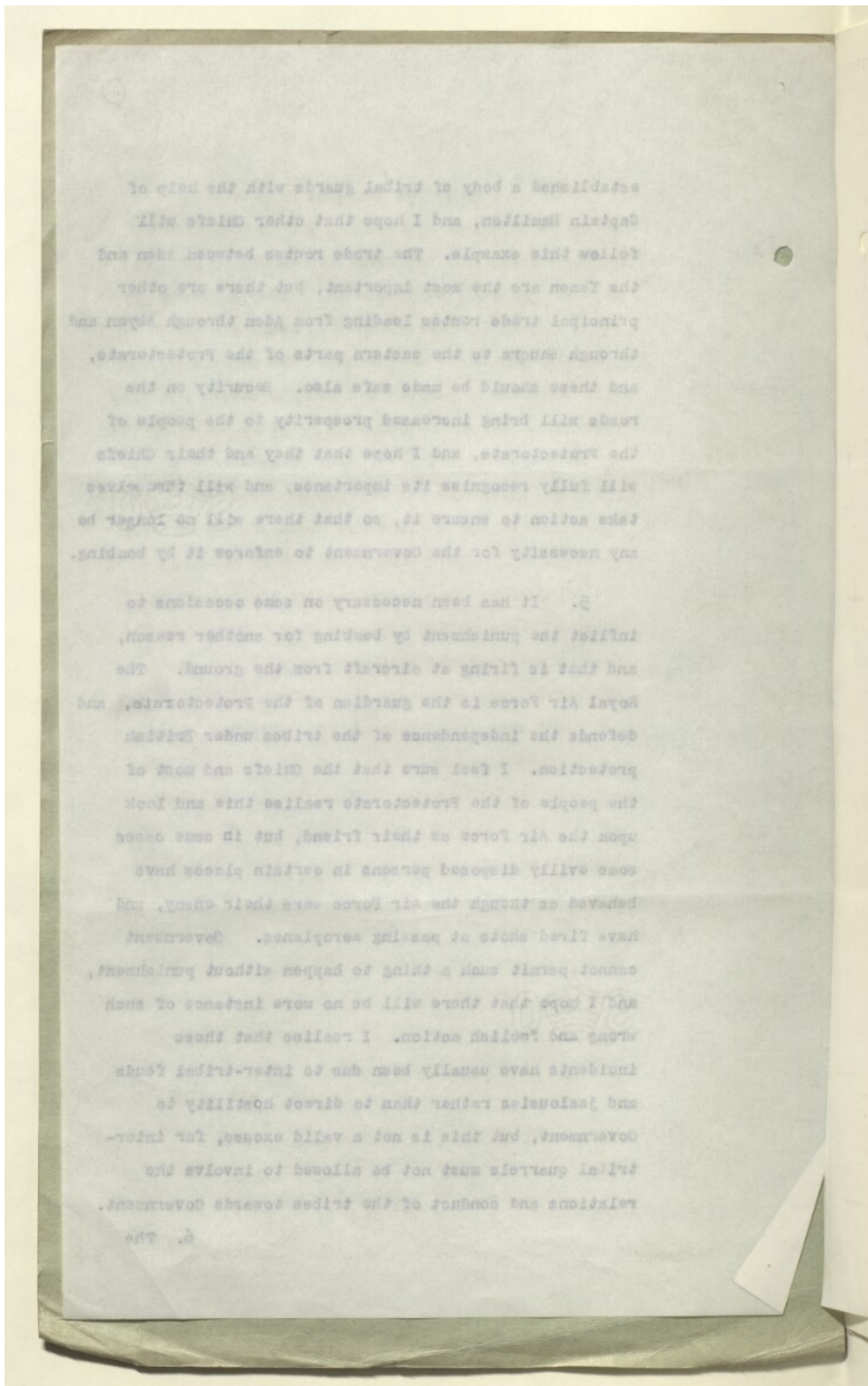


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established a body of tribal guards with the help of Captain Hamilton, and I hope that other Chiefs will follow this example. The trade routes between Aden and the Yemen are the most important, but there are other principal trade routes leading from Aden through Abyan and through Shuqra to the eastern parts of the Protectorate, and these should be made safe also. Security on the roads will bring increased prosperity to the people of the Protectorate, and I hope that they and their Chiefs will fully recognise its importance, and will themselves take action to ensure it, so that there will no longer be any necessity for the Government to enforce it by bombing.

5. It has been necessary on some occasions to inflict the punishment by bombing for another reason, and that is firing at aircraft from the ground. The Royal Air Force is the guardian of the Protectorate, and defends the independence of the tribes under British protection. I feel sure that the Chiefs and most of the people of the Protectorate realise this and look upon the Air Force as their friend, but in some cases some evilly disposed persons in certain places have behaved as though the Air Force were their enemy, and have fired shots at passing aeroplanes. Government cannot permit such a thing to happen without punishment, and I hope that there will be no more instance of such wrong and foolish action. I realise that these incidents have usually been due to inter-tribal feuds and jealousies rather than to direct hostility to Government, but this is not a valid excuse, for inter-tribal quarrels must not be allowed to involve the relations and conduct of the tribes towards Government.

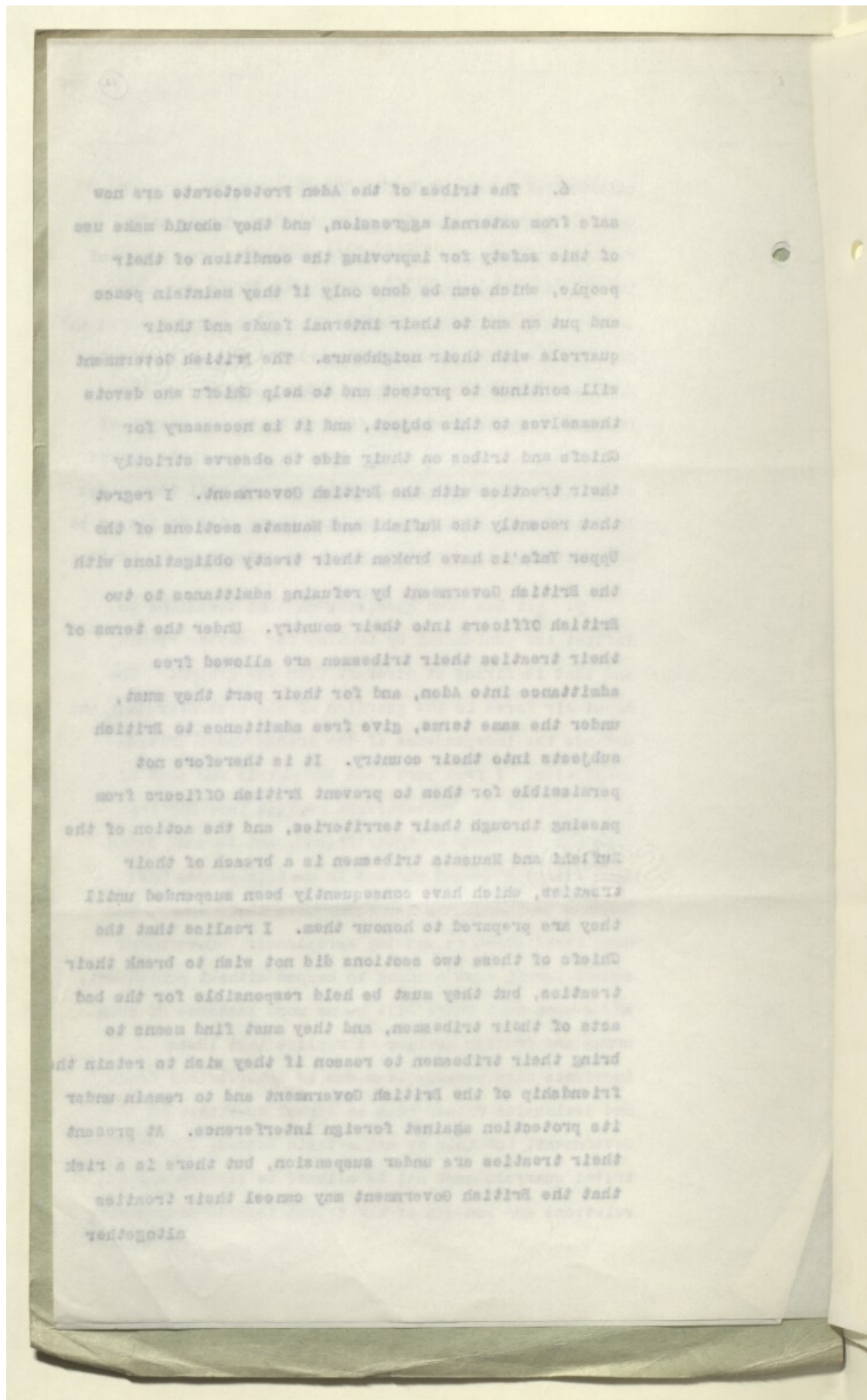
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6. The tribes of the Aden Protectorate are now safe from external aggression, and they should make use of this safety for improving the condition of their people, which can be done only if they maintain peace and put an end to their internal feuds and their quarrels with their neighbours. The British Government will continue to protect and to help Chiefs who devote themselves to this object, and it is necessary for Chiefs and tribes on their side to observe strictly their treaties with the British Government. I regret that recently the Muflahi and Mausata sections of the Upper Yafa'is have broken their treaty obligations with the British Government by refusing admittance to two British Officers into their country. Under the terms of their treaties their tribesmen are allowed free admittance into Aden, and for their part they must, under the same terms, give free admittance to British subjects into their country. It is therefore not permissible for them to prevent British Officers from passing through their territories, and the action of the Muflahi and Mausata tribesmen is a breach of their treaties, which have consequently been suspended until they are prepared to honour them. I realise that the Chiefs of these two sections did not wish to break their treaties, but they must be held responsible for the bad acts of their tribesmen, and they must find means to bring their tribesmen to reason if they wish to retain the friendship of the British Government and to remain under its protection against foreign interference. At present their treaties are under suspension, but there is a risk that the British Government may cancel their treaties altogether



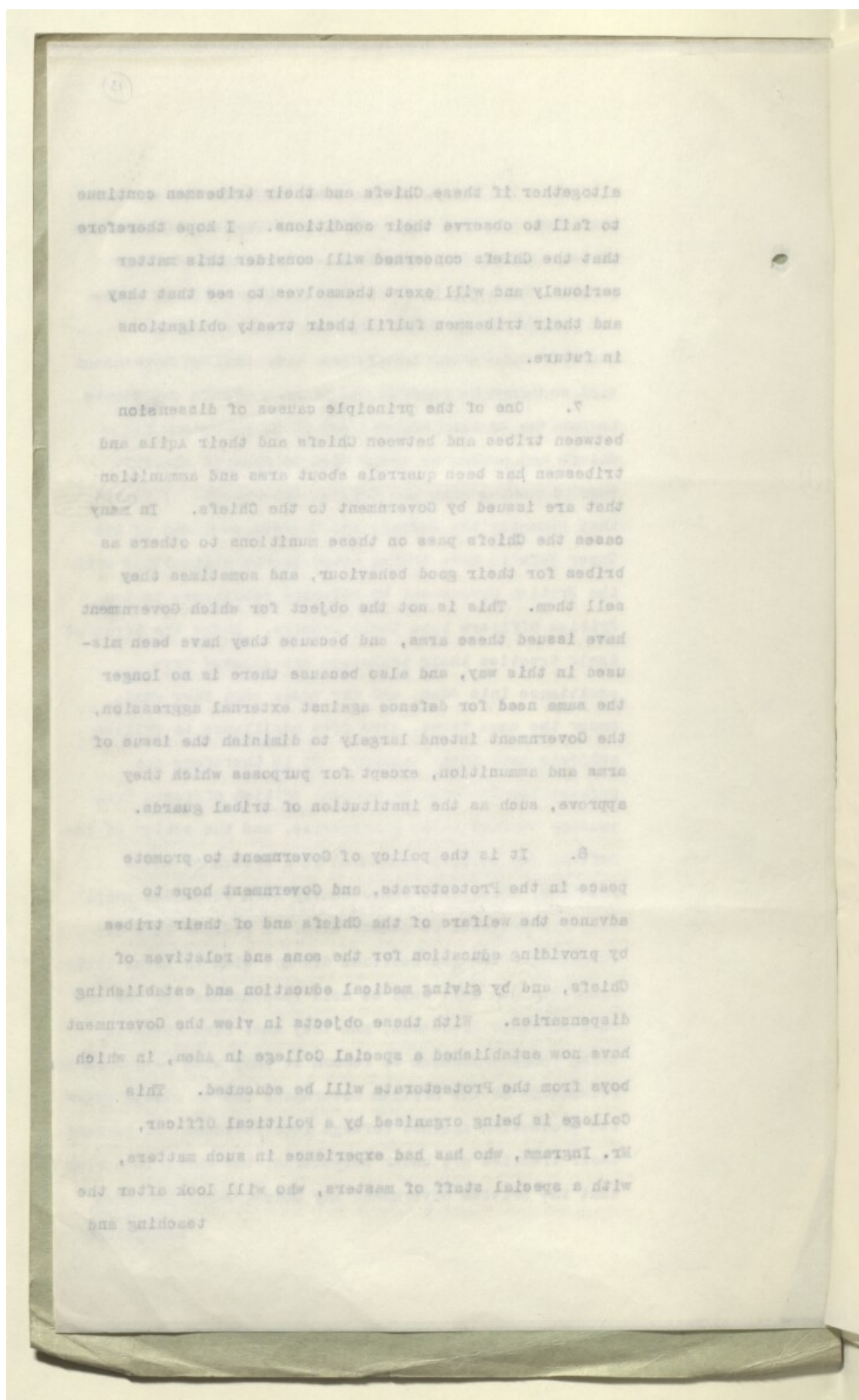


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altogether if these Chiefs and their tribesmen continue to fail to observe their conditions. I hope therefore that the Chiefs concerned will consider this matter seriously and will exert themselves to see that they and their tribesmen fulfil their treaty obligations in future.

7. One of the principle causes of dissension between tribes and between Chiefs and their Aqils and tribesmen has been quarrels about arms and ammunition that are issued by Government to the Chiefs. In many cases the Chiefs pass on these munitions to others as bribes for their good behaviour, and sometimes they sell them. This is not the object for which Government have issued these arms, and because they have been mis-used in this way, and also because there is no longer the same need for defence against external aggression, the Government intend largely to diminish the issue of arms and ammunition, except for purposes which they approve, such as the institution of tribal guards.

8. It is the policy of Government to promote peace in the Protectorate, and Government hope to advance the welfare of the Chiefs and of their tribes by providing education for the sons and relatives of Chiefs, and by giving medical education and establishing dispensaries. With these objects in view the Government have now established a special College in Aden, in which boys from the Protectorate will be educated. This College is being organised by a Political Officer, Mr. Ingrams, who has had experience in such matters, with a special staff of masters, who will look after the teaching and

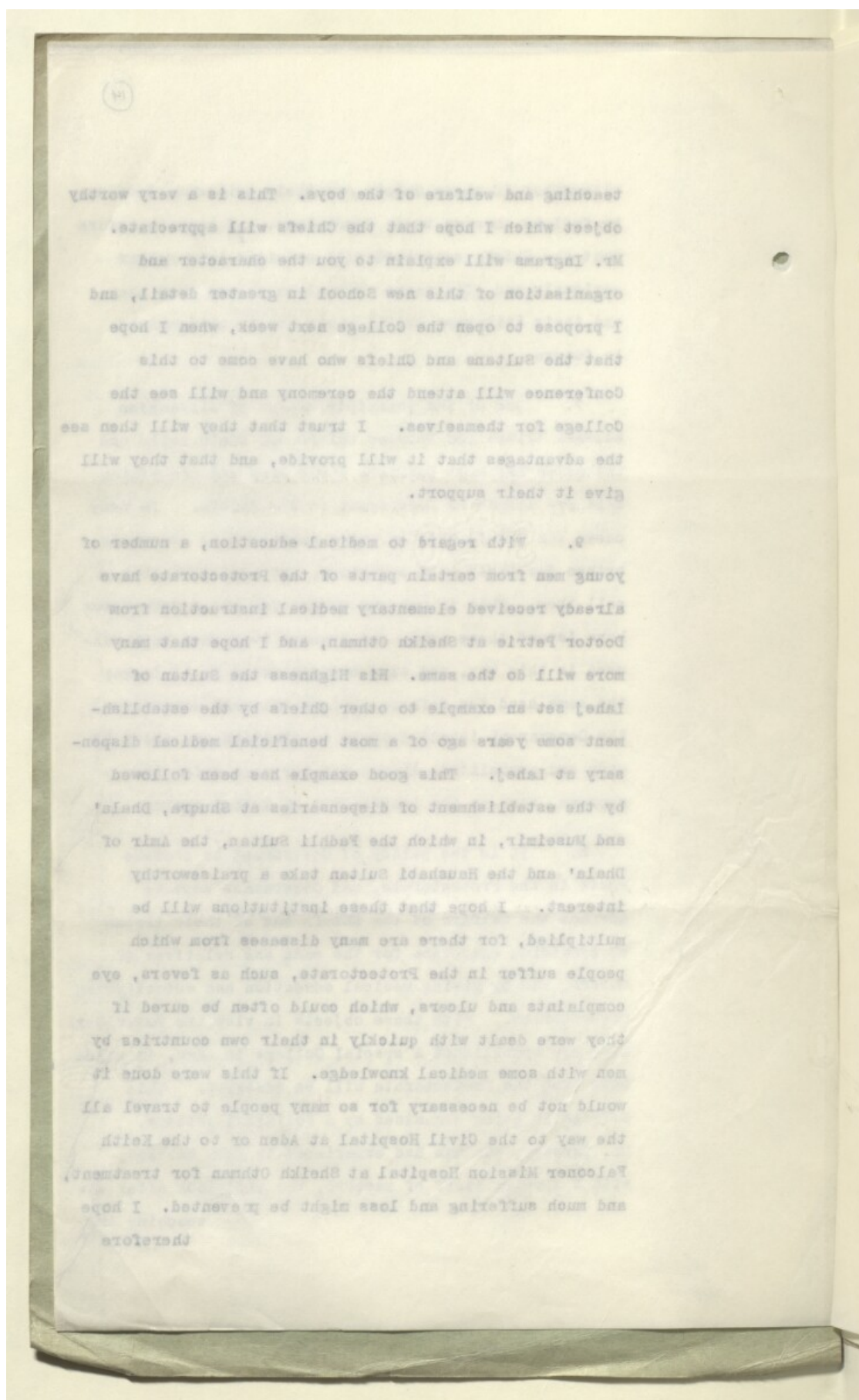




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teaching and welfare of the boys. This is a very worthy object which I hope that the Chiefs will appreciate. Mr. Ingrams will explain to you the character and organisation of this new School in greater detail, and I propose to open the College next week, when I hope that the Sultans and Chiefs who have come to this Conference will attend the ceremony and will see the College for themselves. I trust that they will then see the advantages that it will provide, and that they will give it their support.

9. With regard to medical education, a number of young men from certain parts of the Protectorate have already received elementary medical instruction from Doctor Patrie at Sheikh Othman, and I hope that many more will do the same. His Highness the Sultan of Lahej set an example to other Chiefs by the establishment some years ago of a most beneficial medical dispensary at Lahej. This good example has been followed by the establishment of dispensaries at Shuqra, Dhala' and Museimir, in which the Fadhli Sultan, the Amir of Dhala' and the Haushabi Sultan take a praiseworthy interest. I hope that these institutions will be multiplied, for there are many diseases from which people suffer in the Protectorate, such as fevers, eye complaints and ulcers, which could often be cured if they were dealt with quickly in their own countries by men with some medical knowledge. If this were done it would not be necessary for so many people to travel all the way to the Civil Hospital at Aden or to the Keith Falconer Mission Hospital at Sheikh Othman for treatment, and much suffering and loss might be prevented. I hope therefore

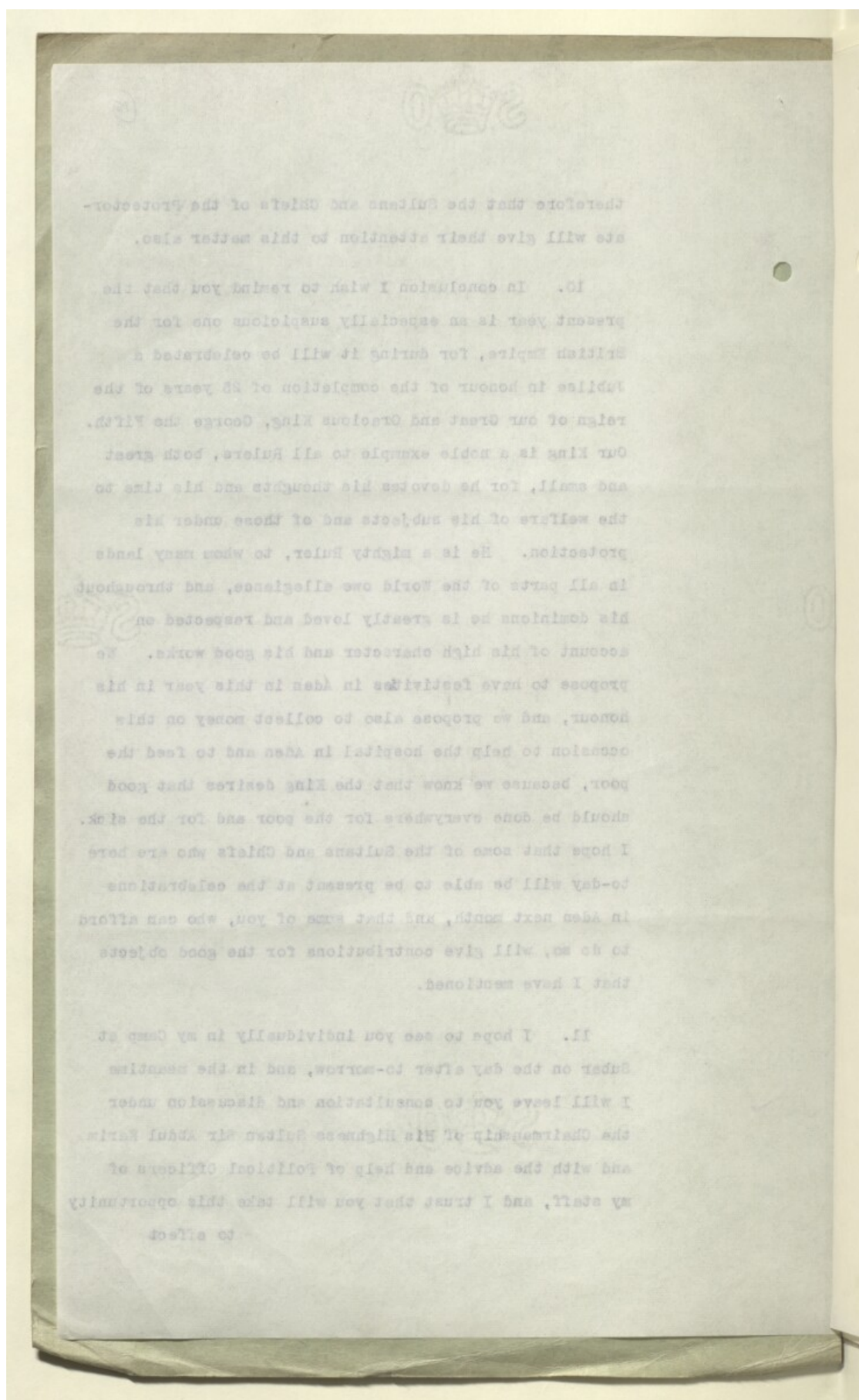


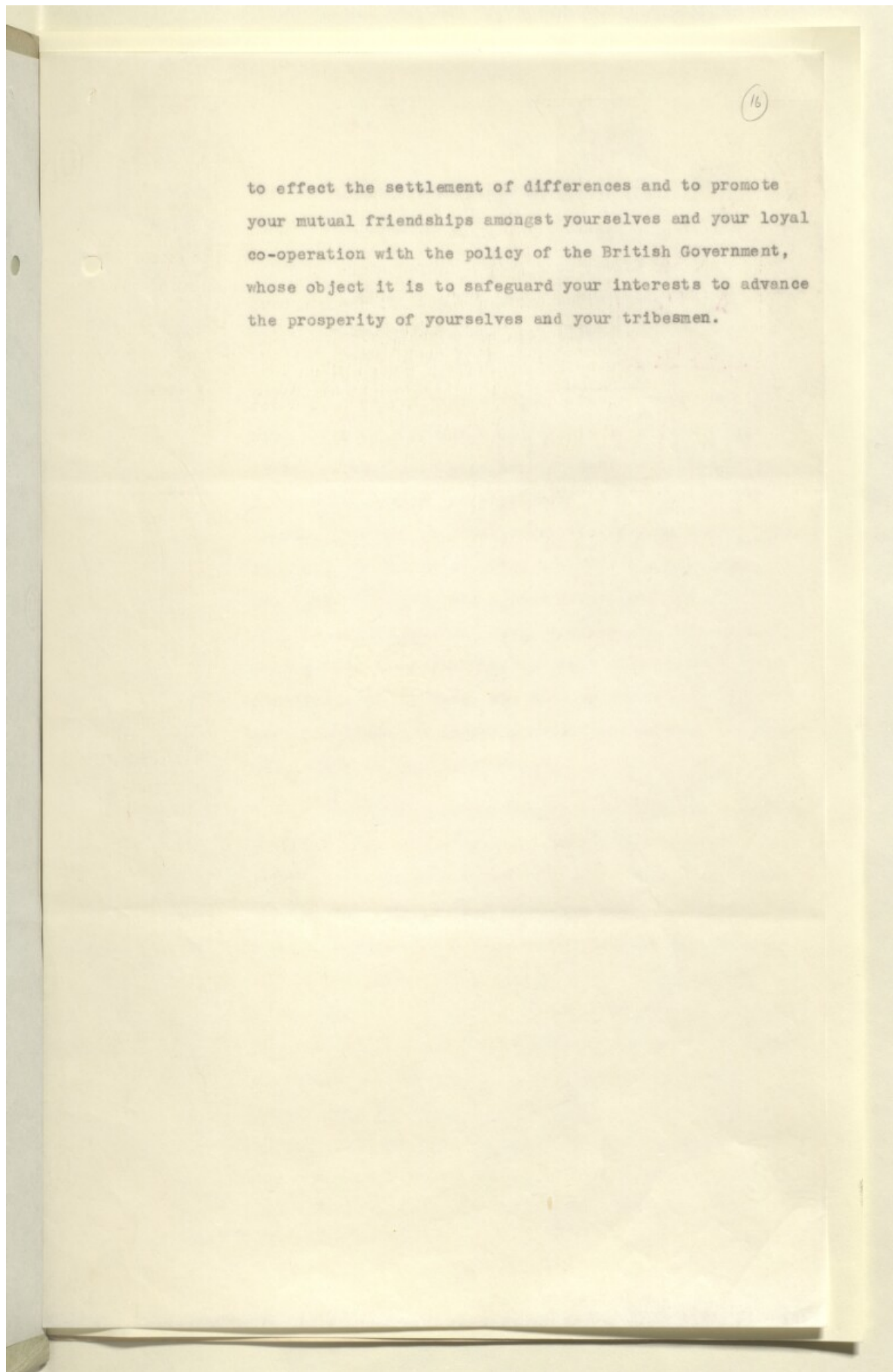


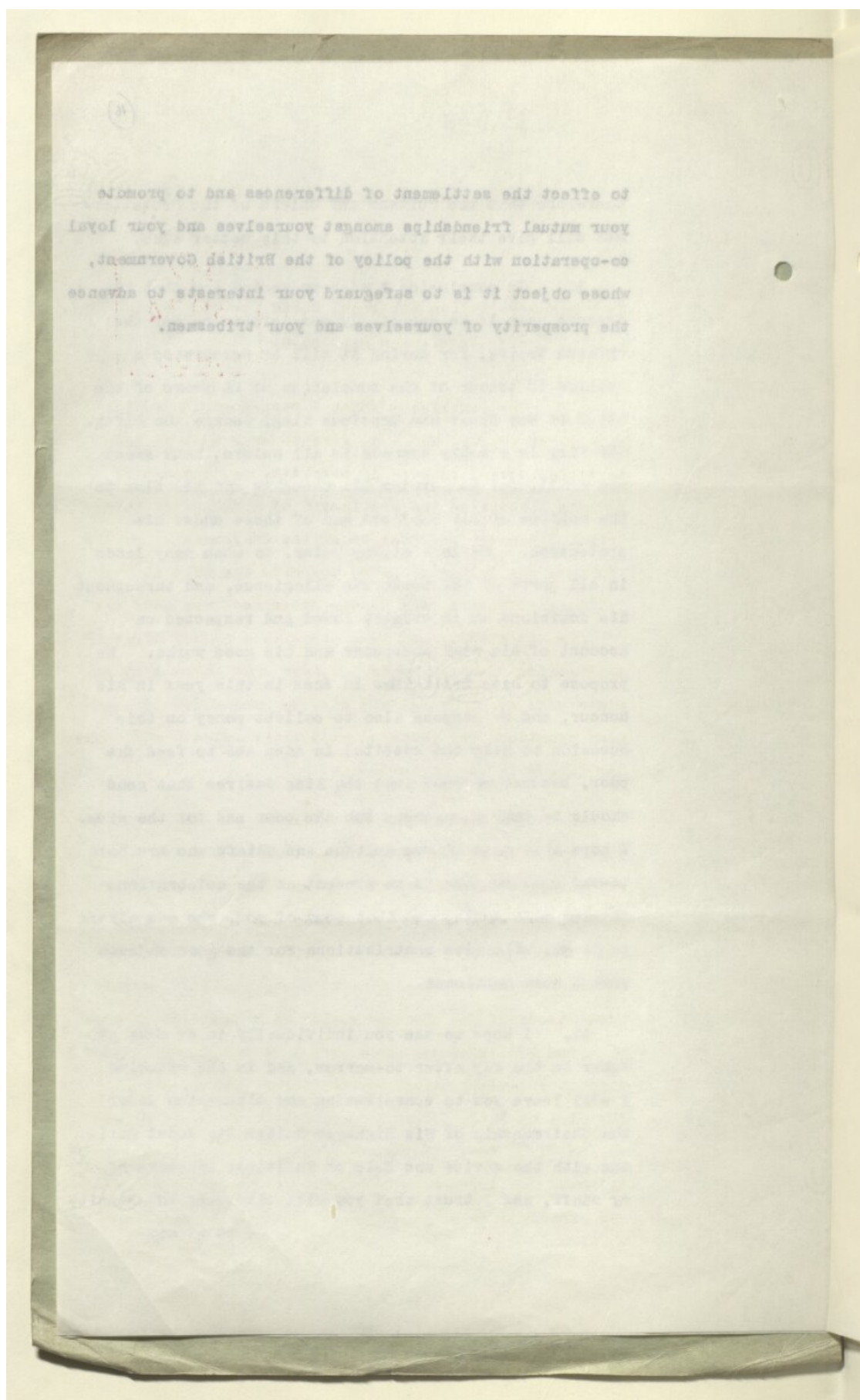
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therefore that the Sultans and Chiefs of the Protectorate will give their attention to this matter also.

10. In conclusion I wish to remind you that the present year is an especially auspicious one for the British Empire, for during it will be celebrated a Jubilee in honour of the completion of 25 years of the reign of our Great and Gracious King, George the Fifth. Our King is a noble example to all Rulers, both great and small, for he devotes his thoughts and his time to the welfare of his subjects and of those under his protection. He is a mighty Ruler, to whom many lands in all parts of the World owe allegiance, and throughout his dominions he is greatly loved and respected on account of his high character and his good works. We propose to have festivities in Aden in this year in his honour, and we propose also to collect money on this occasion to help the hospital in Aden and to feed the poor, because we know that the King desires that good should be done everywhere for the poor and for the sick. I hope that some of the Sultans and Chiefs who are here to-day will be able to be present at the celebrations in Aden next month, and that some of you, who can afford to do so, will give contributions for the good objects that I have mentioned.

11. I hope to see you individually in my Camp at Subar on the day after to-morrow, and in the meantime I will leave you to consultation and discussion under the Chairmanship of His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim and with the advice and help of Political Officers of my staff, and I trust that you will take this opportunity to effect









(17)
ADDRESS CLOSING THE LAHEJ CONFERENCE 1935.

6th April 1935.

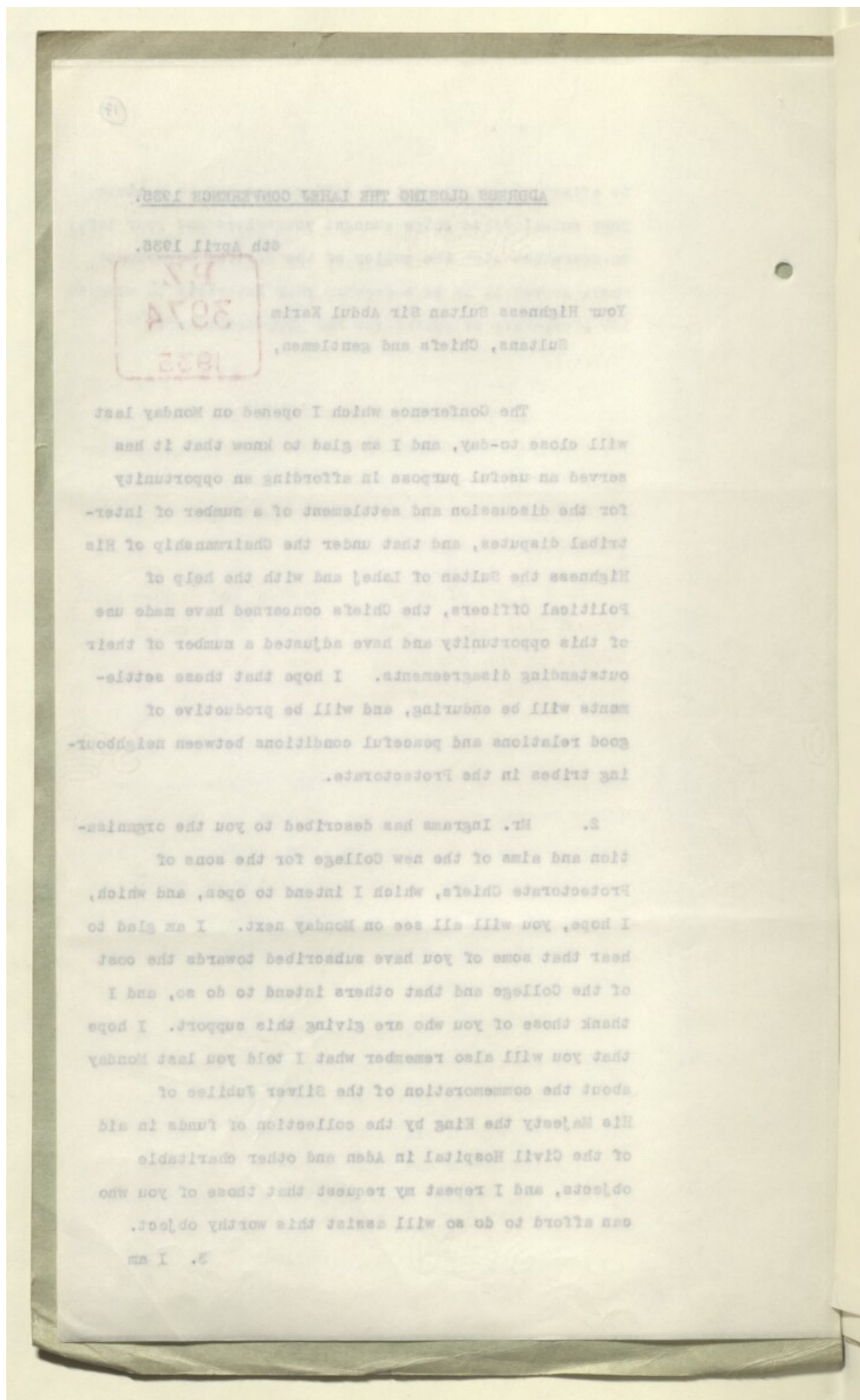
Your Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim
Sultans, Chiefs and gentlemen,



The Conference which I opened on Monday last will close to-day, and I am glad to know that it has served an useful purpose in affording an opportunity for the discussion and settlement of a number of inter-tribal disputes, and that under the Chairmanship of His Highness the Sultan of Lahej and with the help of Political Officers, the Chiefs concerned have made use of this opportunity and have adjusted a number of their outstanding disagreements. I hope that these settlements will be enduring, and will be productive of good relations and peaceful conditions between neighbouring tribes in the Protectorate.

2. Mr. Ingrams has described to you the organisation and aims of the new College for the sons of Protectorate Chiefs, which I intend to open, and which, I hope, you will all see on Monday next. I am glad to hear that some of you have subscribed towards the cost of the College and that others intend to do so, and I thank those of you who are giving this support. I hope that you will also remember what I told you last Monday about the commemoration of the Silver Jubilee of His Majesty the King by the collection of funds in aid of the Civil Hospital in Aden and other charitable objects, and I repeat my request that those of you who can afford to do so will assist this worthy object.

3. I am



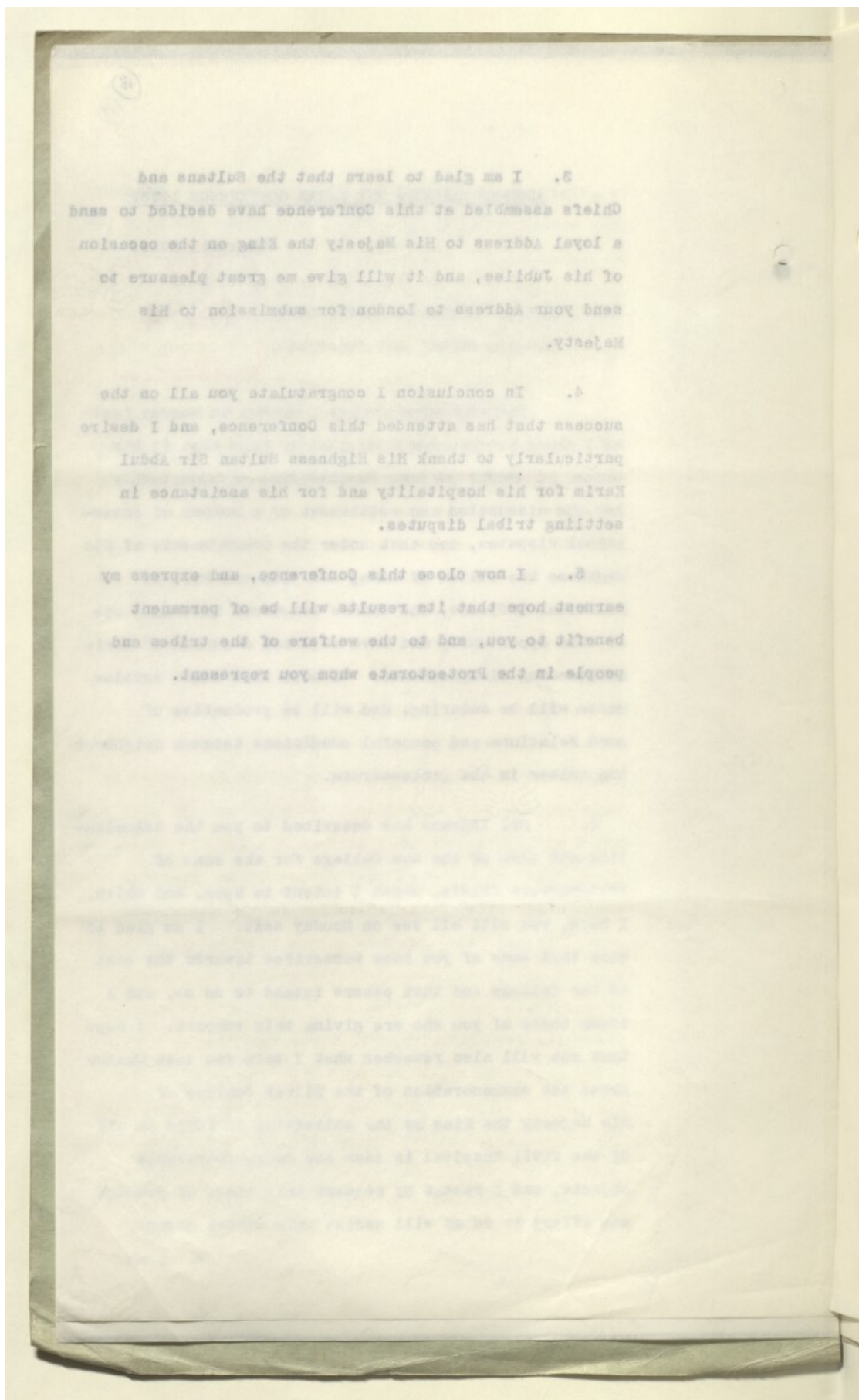


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3. I am glad to learn that the Sultans and Chiefs assembled at this Conference have decided to send a loyal Address to His Majesty the King on the occasion of his Jubilee, and it will give me great pleasure to send your Address to London for submission to His Majesty.

4. In conclusion I congratulate you all on the success that has attended this Conference, and I desire particularly to thank His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim for his hospitality and for his assistance in settling tribal disputes.

5. I now close this Conference, and express my earnest hope that its results will be of permanent benefit to you, and to the welfare of the tribes and people in the Protectorate whom you represent.



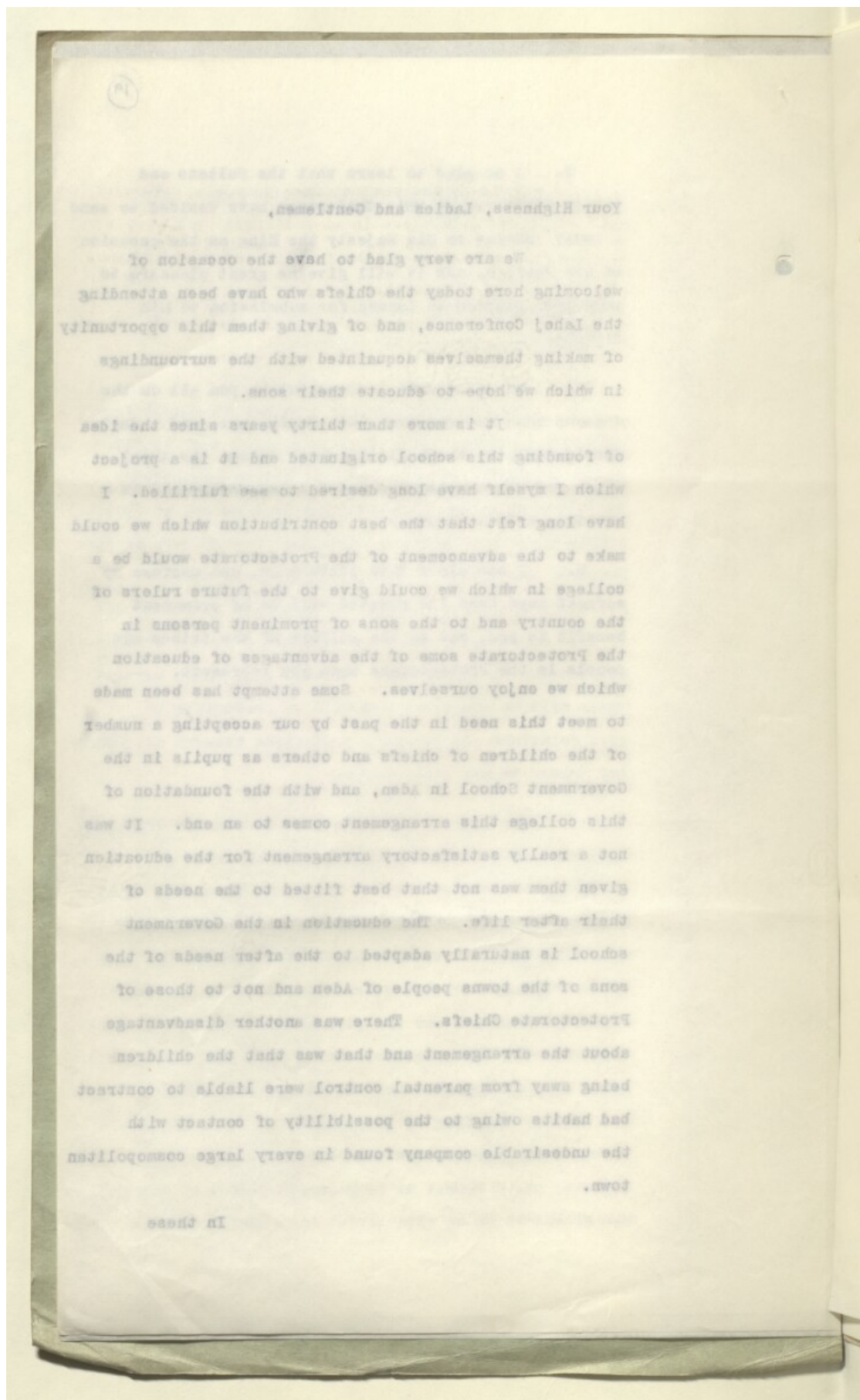


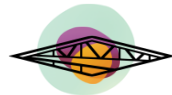
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Your Highness, Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are very glad to have the occasion of welcoming here today the Chiefs who have been attending the Lahej Conference, and of giving them this opportunity of making themselves acquainted with the surroundings in which we hope to educate their sons.

It is more than thirty years since the idea of founding this school originated and it is a project which I myself have long desired to see fulfilled. I have long felt that the best contribution which we could make to the advancement of the Protectorate would be a college in which we could give to the future rulers of the country and to the sons of prominent persons in the Protectorate some of the advantages of education which we enjoy ourselves. Some attempt has been made to meet this need in the past by our accepting a number of the children of chiefs and others as pupils in the Government School in Aden, and with the foundation of this college this arrangement comes to an end. It was not a really satisfactory arrangement for the education given them was not that best fitted to the needs of their after life. The education in the Government school is naturally adapted to the after needs of the sons of the towns people of Aden and not to those of Protectorate Chiefs. There was another disadvantage about the arrangement and that was that the children being away from parental control were liable to contract bad habits owing to the possibility of contact with the undesirable company found in every large cosmopolitan town.

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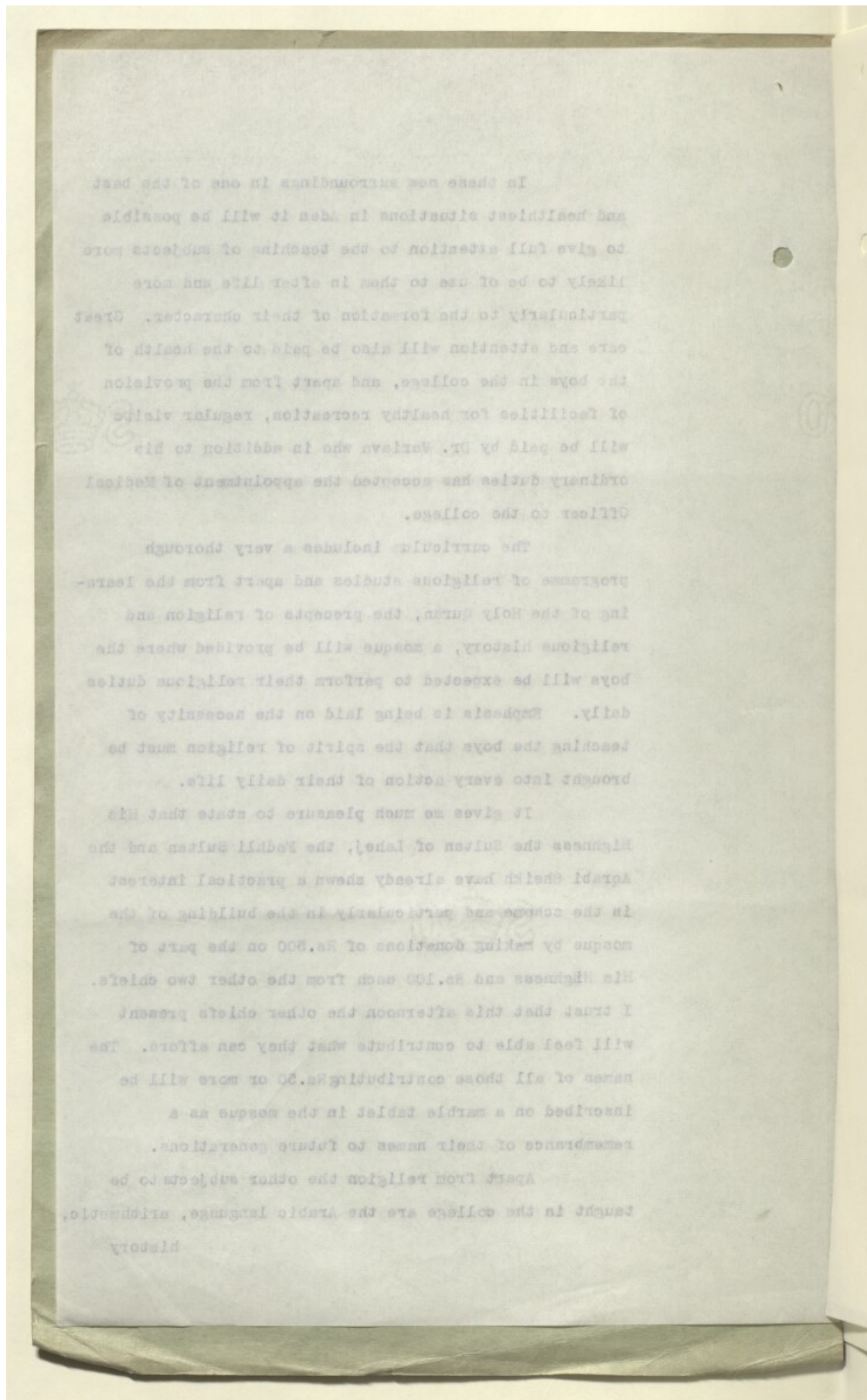
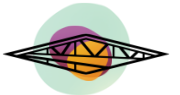
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In these new surroundings in one of the best and healthiest situations in Aden it will be possible to give full attention to the teaching of subjects more likely to be of use to them in after life and more particularly to the formation of their character. Great care and attention will also be paid to the health of the boys in the college, and apart from the provision of facilities for healthy recreation, regular visits will be paid by Dr. Variava who in addition to his ordinary duties has accepted the appointment of Medical Officer to the college.

The curriculum includes a very thorough programme of religious studies and apart from the learning of the Holy Quran, the precepts of religion and religious history, a mosque will be provided where the boys will be expected to perform their religious duties daily. Emphasis is being laid on the necessity of teaching the boys that the spirit of religion must be brought into every action of their daily life.

It gives me much pleasure to state that His Highness the Sultan of Lahej, the Fadhli Sultan and the Aqrabi Sheikh have already shewn a practical interest in the scheme and particularly in the building of the mosque by making donations of Rs.500 on the part of His Highness and Rs.100 each from the other two chiefs. I trust that this afternoon the other chiefs present will feel able to contribute what they can afford. The names of all those contributing Rs.50 or more will be inscribed on a marble tablet in the mosque as a remembrance of their names to future generations.

Apart from religion the other subjects to be taught in the college are the Arabic language, arithmetic, history





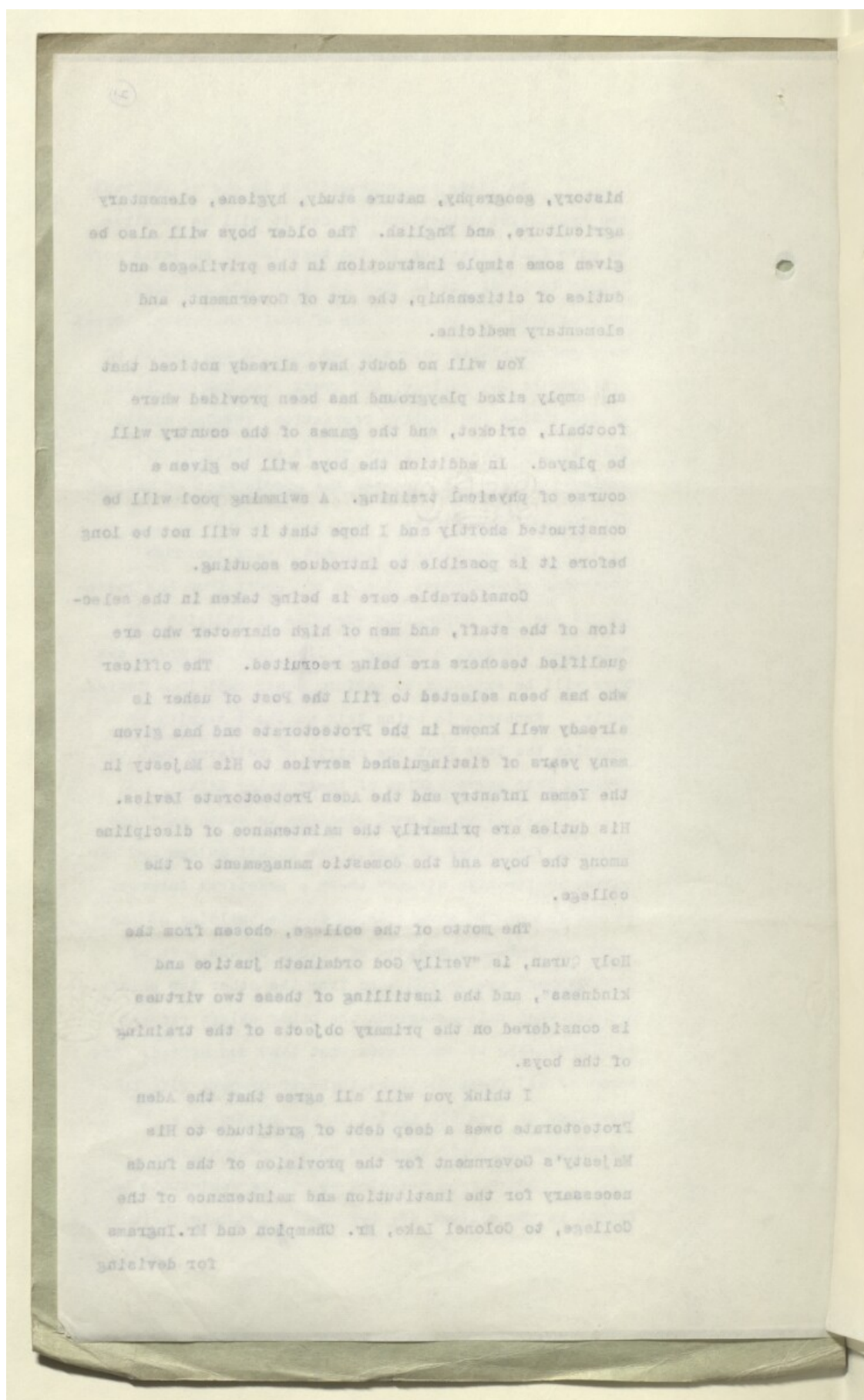
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history, geography, nature study, hygiene, elementary agriculture, and English. The older boys will also be given some simple instruction in the privileges and duties of citizenship, the art of Government, and elementary medicine.

You will no doubt have already noticed that an amply sized playground has been provided where football, cricket, and the games of the country will be played. In addition the boys will be given a course of physical training. A swimming pool will be constructed shortly and I hope that it will not be long before it is possible to introduce scouting.

Considerable care is being taken in the selection of the staff, and men of high character who are qualified teachers are being recruited. The officer who has been selected to fill the Post of usher is already well known in the Protectorate and has given many years of distinguished service to His Majesty in the Yemen Infantry and the Aden Protectorate Levies. His duties are primarily the maintenance of discipline among the boys and the domestic management of the college.

The motto of the college, chosen from the Holy Quran, is "Verily God ordaineth justice and kindness", and the instilling of these two virtues is considered one of the primary objects of the training of the boys.

I think you will all agree that the Aden Protectorate owes a deep debt of gratitude to His Majesty's Government for the provision of the funds necessary for the institution and maintenance of the College, to Colonel Lake, Mr. Champion and Mr. Ingrams for devising





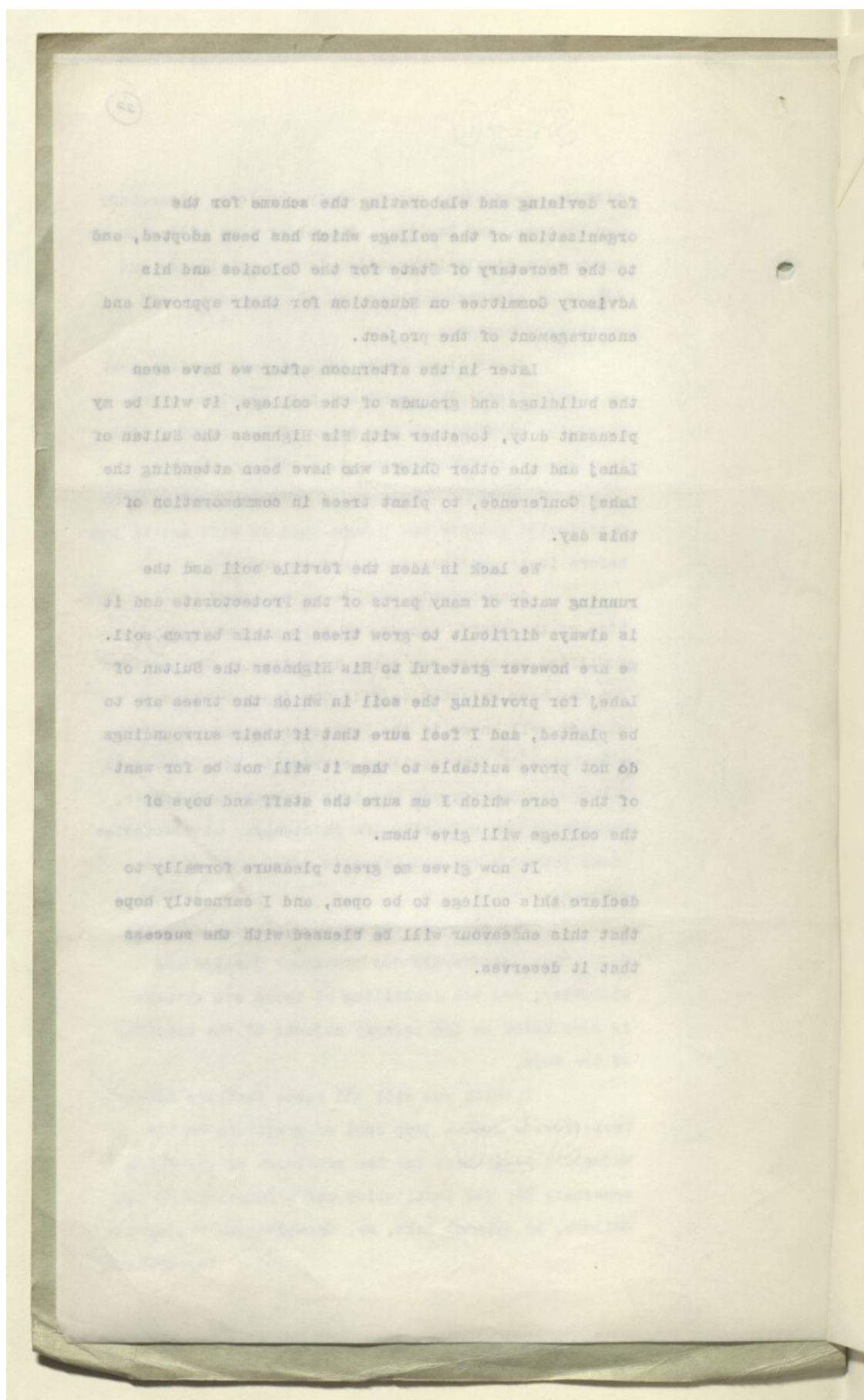
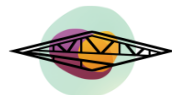
22

for devising and elaborating the scheme for the organisation of the college which has been adopted, and to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and his Advisory Committee on Education for their approval and encouragement of the project.

Later in the afternoon after we have seen the buildings and grounds of the college, it will be my pleasant duty, together with His Highness the Sultan of Lahej and the other Chiefs who have been attending the Lahej Conference, to plant trees in commemoration of this day.

We lack in Aden the fertile soil and the running water of many parts of the Protectorate and it is always difficult to grow trees in this barren soil. We are however grateful to His Highness the Sultan of Lahej for providing the soil in which the trees are to be planted, and I feel sure that if their surroundings do not prove suitable to them it will not be for want of the care which I am sure the staff and boys of the college will give them.

It now gives me great pleasure formally to declare this college to be open, and I earnestly hope that this endeavour will be blessed with the success that it deserves.





(23)

To

The stay of mighty Kings and the refuge of
honourable Sultans, the source of justice, and
the spring of equity, His Majesty George V of
the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern
Ireland and the British dominions beyond the Seas,
King, Defender of the faith, Emperor of India,
may the Almighty God strengthen the influence
of Your Majesty in every district and province
and perpetuate the glory, blessings and happiness
of your dynasty.

After presentation of the respect and honour
due, we the undersigned Chiefs of the Aden Protectorate
assembled in Conference at Lahej, do by these presents
desire to offer our heartfelt congratulations, and to
express our sincere loyalty and best wishes, to your
Illustrious Majesty on this the occasion of your
Silver Jubilee on the fulfilment of 25 years from the
accession of your Majesty to the throne of Great Britain.
We lift up our hands to Almighty God in supplication for
the continuance of your reign and the strengthening of
your rule over all the corners of the world with
blessings, guidance and victory to your Majesty in long
life and health.

(Signed) 'ABDUL KARIM FADHL, Sultan of Lahej.

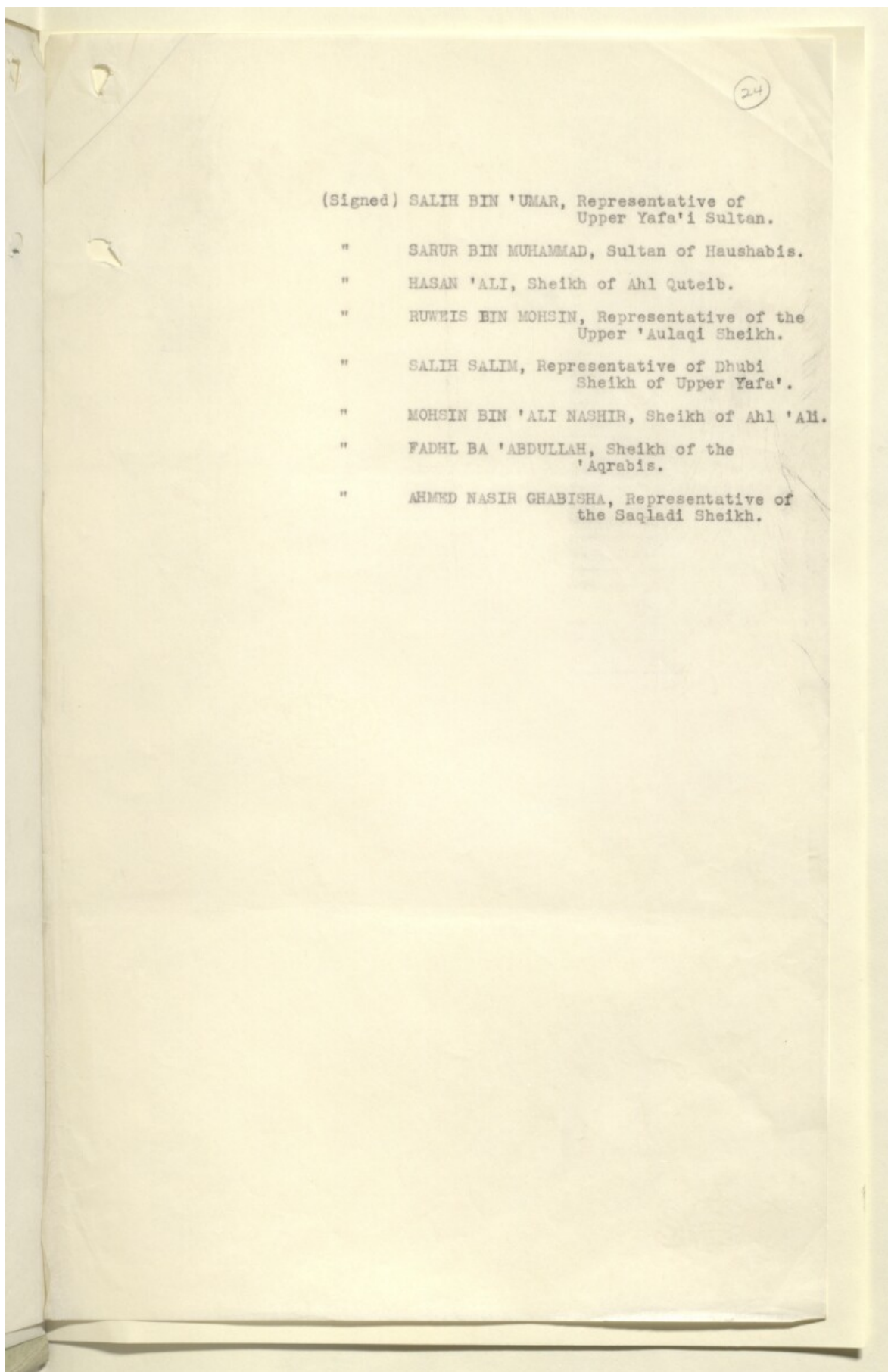
" 'ABDULLAH BIN HUSEIN, Sultan of
Ahl Fadhl.

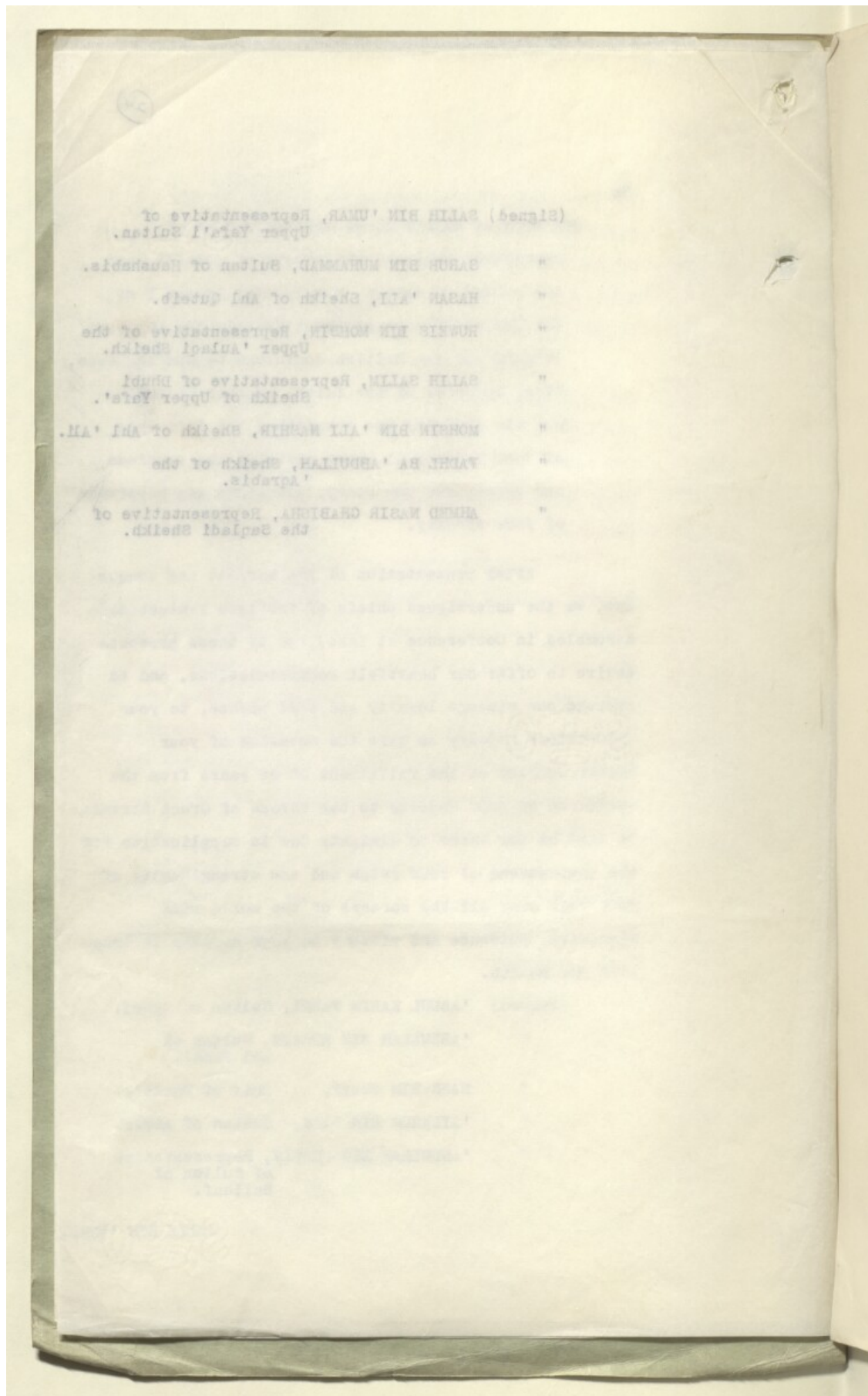
" NASR BIN SHAIK, Amir of Dhala'.

" 'AIDARUS BIN 'ALI, Sultan of Ahwar.

" 'ABDULLAH BIN MOHSIN, Representative
of Sultan of
Balihaf.

SALIH BIN 'UMAR,







Notes.

Register No.
P. Z.
5455/32

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			<i>Aden Protectorate</i>
Under Secretary			<i>Draft Rules of Procedure for</i>
Secretary of State...			<i>the Settlement of Tribal</i>
Committee.....	<i>12. 9.</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>Disputes.</i>
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

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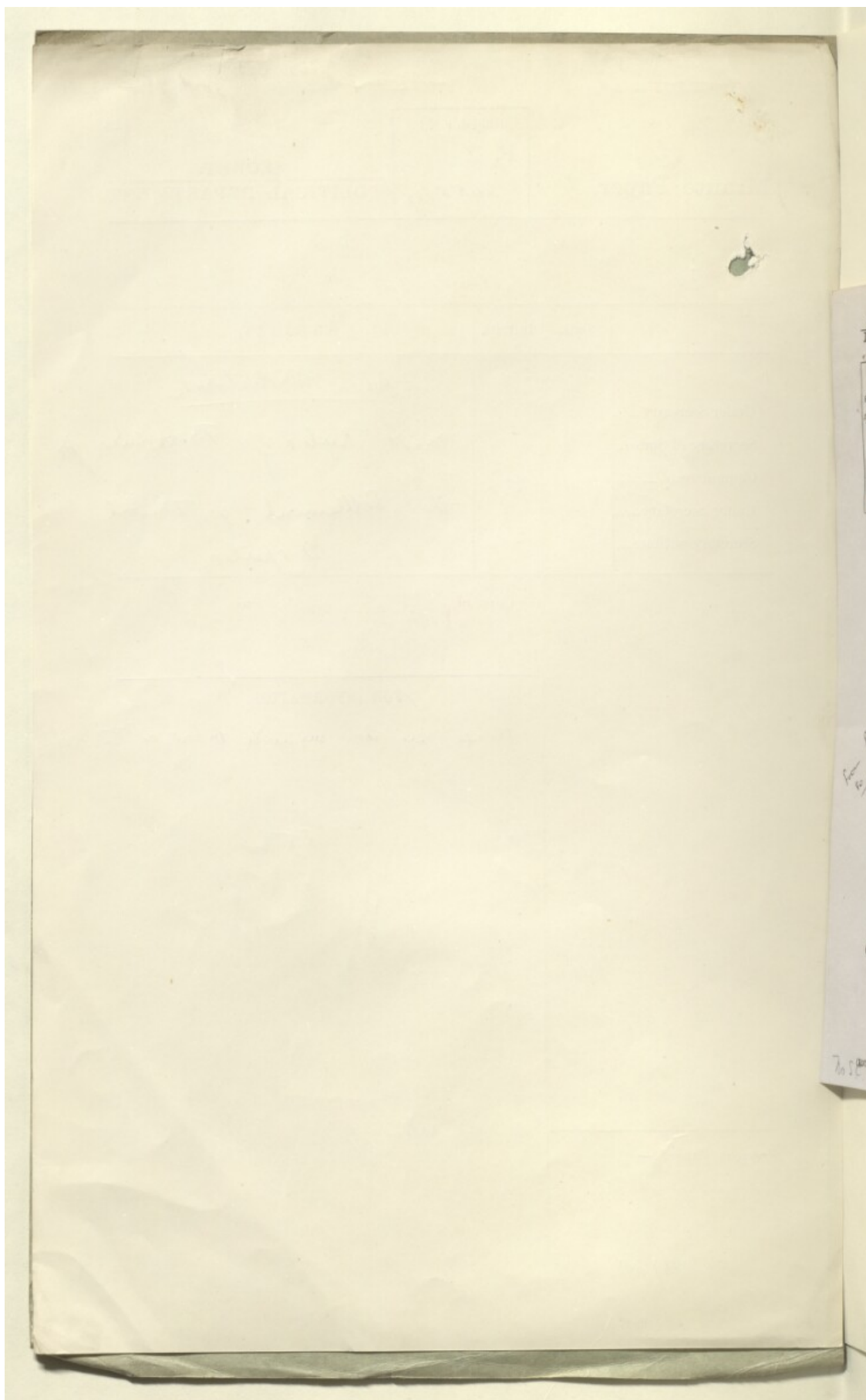
Please see the minute below on P.Z. 3214/32.

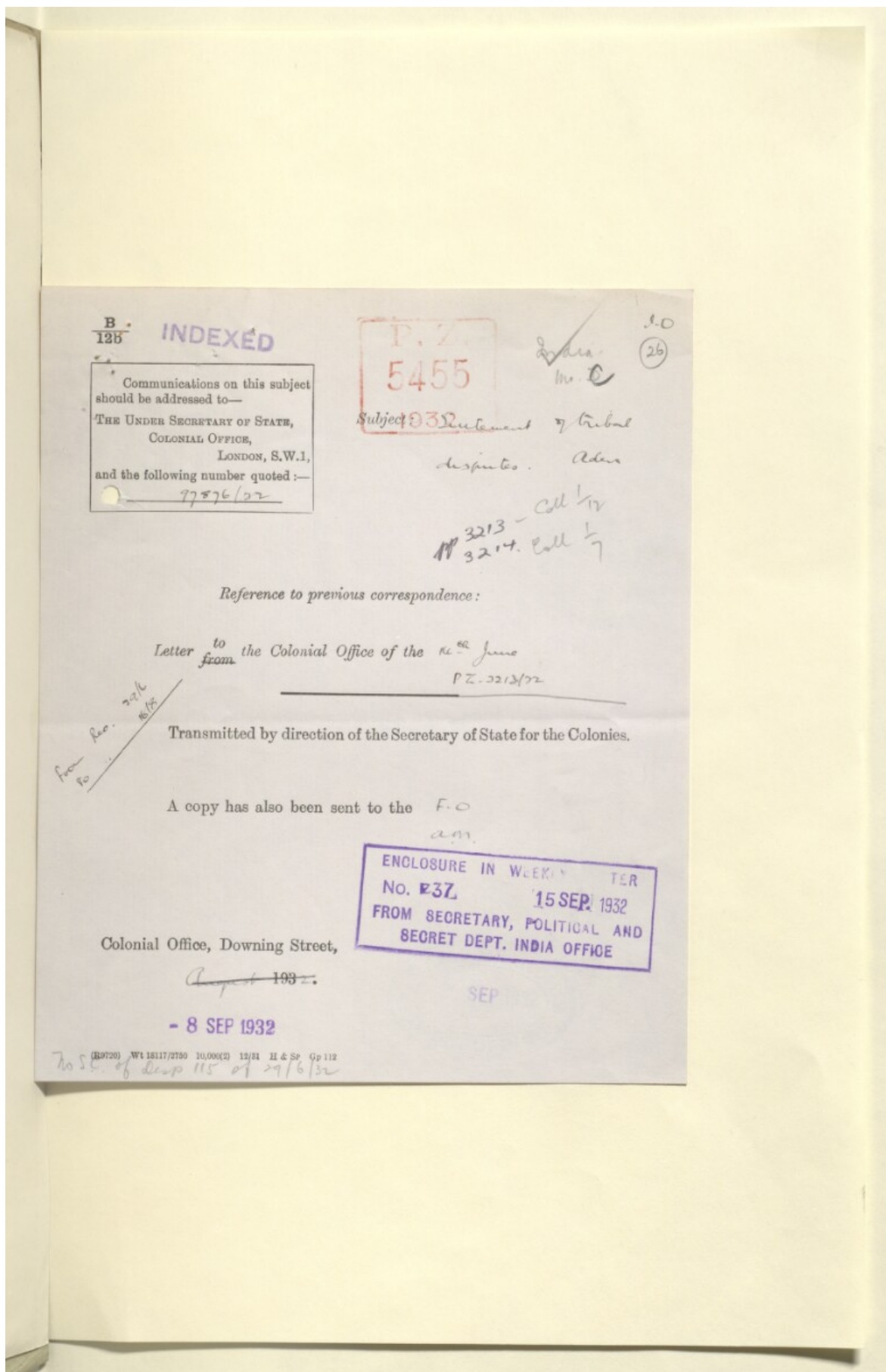
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15/9

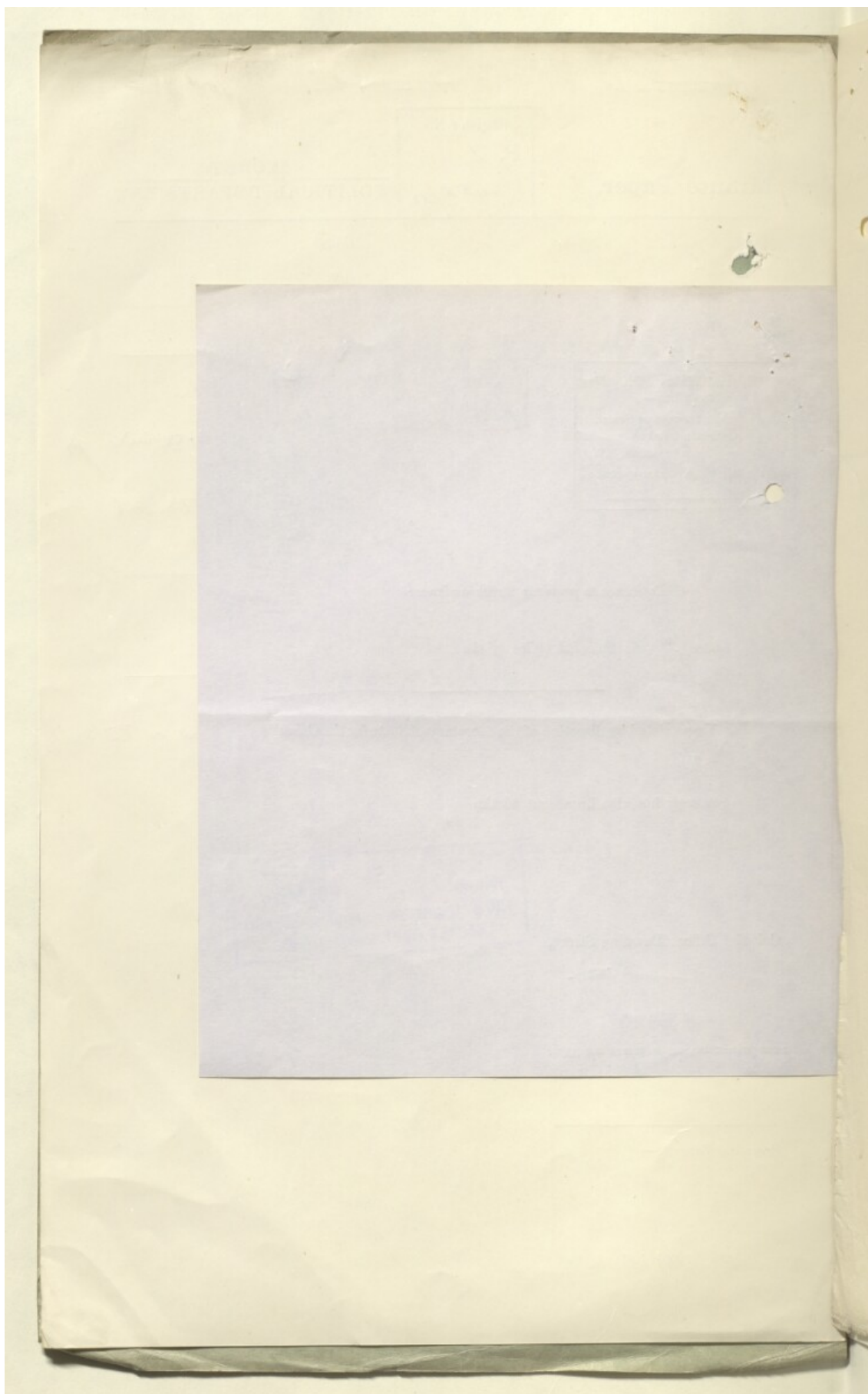
APPROVED
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
16 SEP 1932

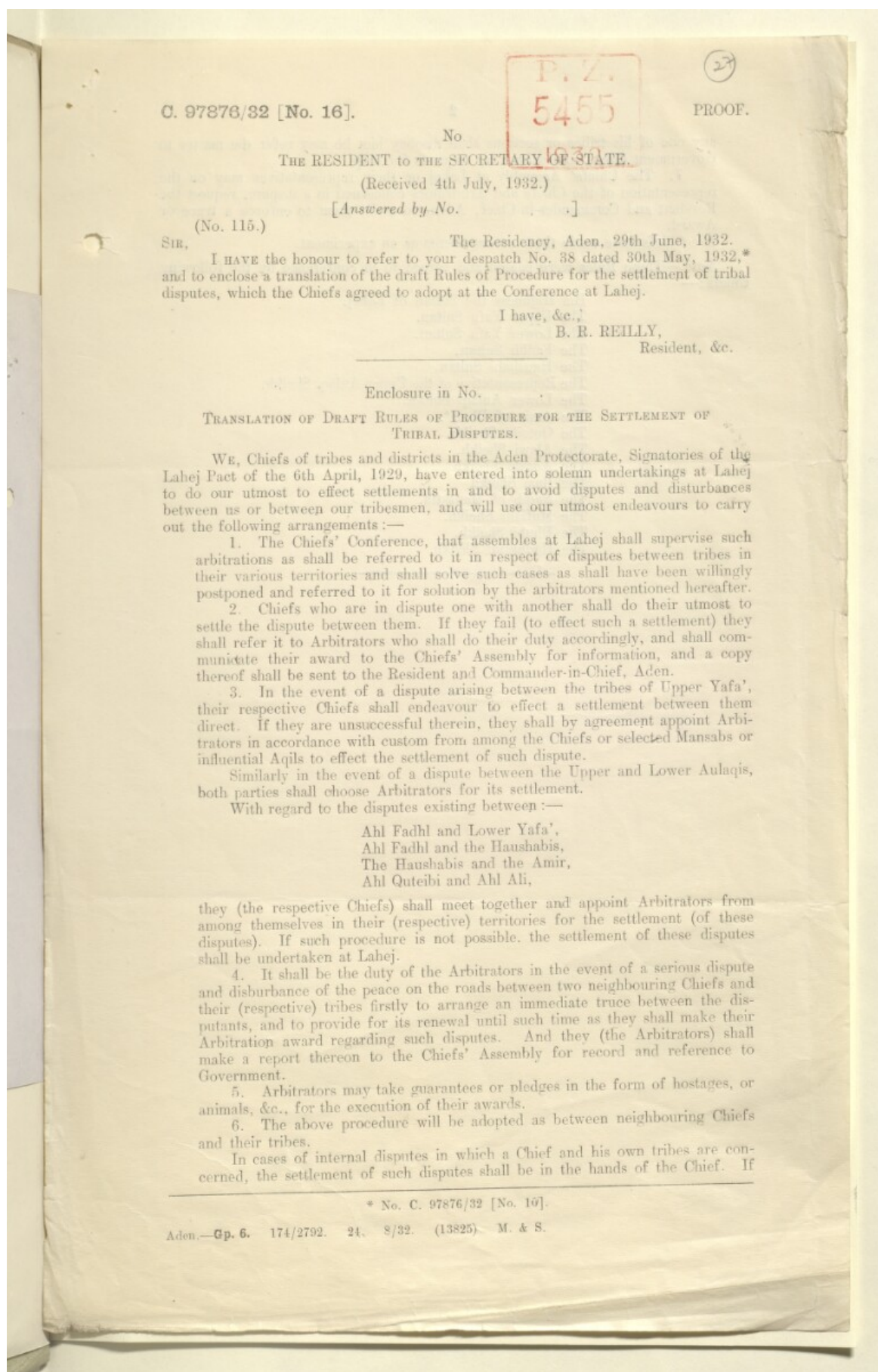
Previous Papers :—

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C. 97876/32 [No. 16].

No.

THE RESIDENT TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(Received 4th July, 1932.)

[Answered by No. .]

(No. 115.)

SIR, The Residency, Aden, 29th June, 1932.
I HAVE the honour to refer to your despatch No. 38 dated 30th May, 1932,* and to enclose a translation of the draft Rules of Procedure for the settlement of tribal disputes, which the Chiefs agreed to adopt at the Conference at Lahej.

I have, &c.,

B. R. REILLY,
Resident, &c.

Enclosure in No.

TRANSLATION OF DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF
TRIBAL DISPUTES.

WE, Chiefs of tribes and districts in the Aden Protectorate, Signatories of the Lahej Pact of the 6th April, 1929, have entered into solemn undertakings at Lahej to do our utmost to effect settlements in and to avoid disputes and disturbances between us or between our tribesmen, and will use our utmost endeavours to carry out the following arrangements:—

1. The Chiefs' Conference, that assembles at Lahej shall supervise such arbitrations as shall be referred to it in respect of disputes between tribes in their various territories and shall solve such cases as shall have been willingly postponed and referred to it for solution by the arbitrators mentioned hereafter.

2. Chiefs who are in dispute one with another shall do their utmost to settle the dispute between them. If they fail (to effect such a settlement) they shall refer it to Arbitrators who shall do their duty accordingly, and shall communicate their award to the Chiefs' Assembly for information, and a copy thereof shall be sent to the Resident and Commander-in-Chief, Aden.

3. In the event of a dispute arising between the tribes of Upper Yafa', their respective Chiefs shall endeavour to effect a settlement between them direct. If they are unsuccessful therein, they shall by agreement appoint Arbitrators in accordance with custom from among the Chiefs or selected Mansabs or influential Aqils to effect the settlement of such dispute.

Similarly in the event of a dispute between the Upper and Lower Aulaqis, both parties shall choose Arbitrators for its settlement.

With regard to the disputes existing between:—

Ahl Fadhl and Lower Yafa',
Ahl Fadhl and the Haushabis,
The Haushabis and the Amir,
Ahl Quteibi and Ahl Ali,

they (the respective Chiefs) shall meet together and appoint Arbitrators from among themselves in their (respective) territories for the settlement (of these disputes). If such procedure is not possible, the settlement of these disputes shall be undertaken at Lahej.

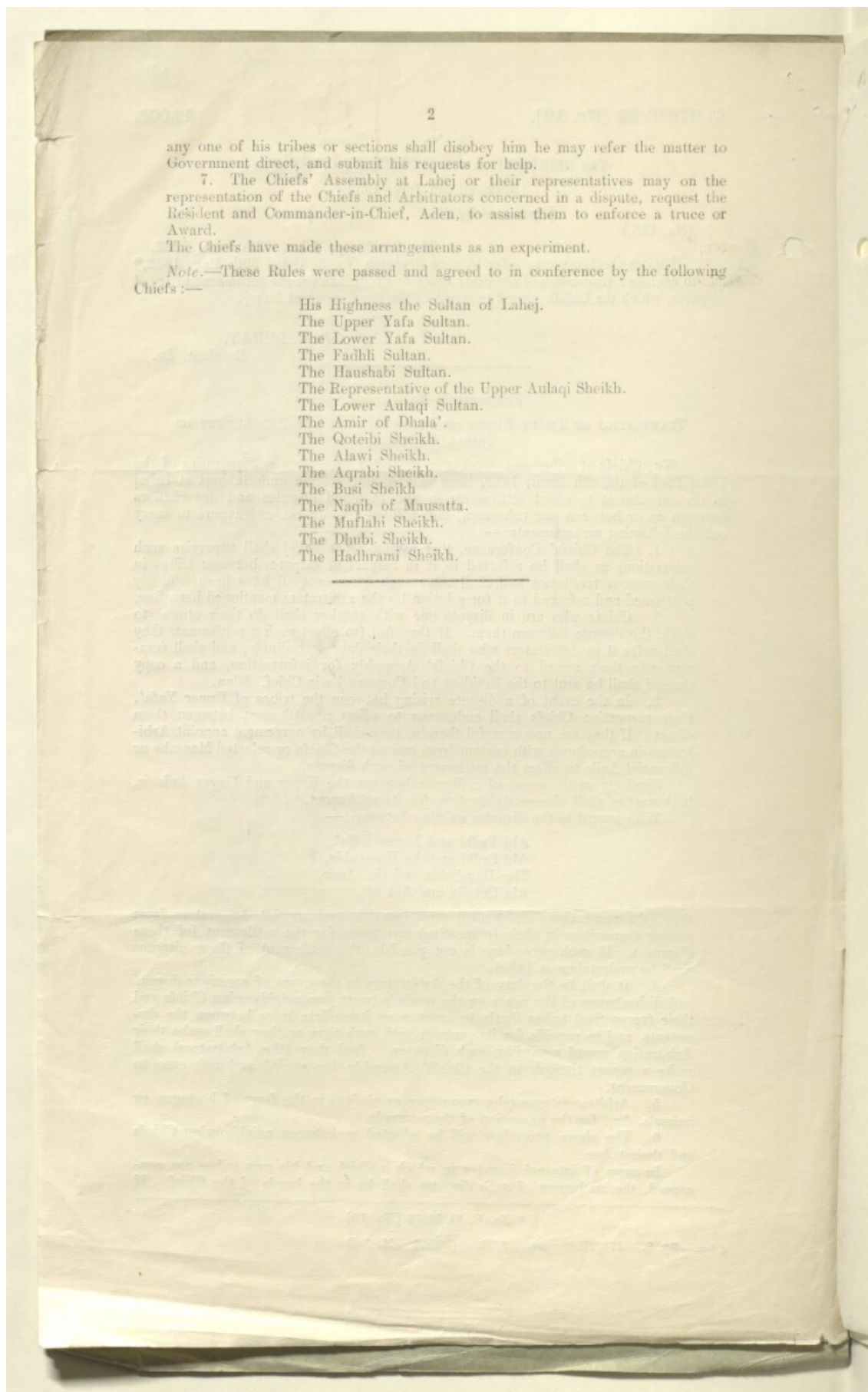
4. It shall be the duty of the Arbitrators in the event of a serious dispute and disturbance of the peace on the roads between two neighbouring Chiefs and their (respective) tribes firstly to arrange an immediate truce between the disputants, and to provide for its renewal until such time as they shall make their Arbitration award regarding such disputes. And they (the Arbitrators) shall make a report thereon to the Chiefs' Assembly for record and reference to Government.

5. Arbitrators may take guarantees or pledges in the form of hostages, or animals, &c., for the execution of their awards.

6. The above procedure will be adopted as between neighbouring Chiefs and their tribes.

In cases of internal disputes in which a Chief and his own tribes are concerned, the settlement of such disputes shall be in the hands of the Chief. If

* No. C. 97876/32 [No. 16].



(28)

16 August, 1933.

AT AUBURN.



Notes.

(29)

Register No.
P.2.
 3214/32

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	9.6.	sw	<u>Aden Protectorate</u>
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	11	GR	Third Conference of Chiefs at Lahij.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

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The Resident considers that these conferences are effective in combating centrifugal tendencies, that progress in co-operation though slow, is real.

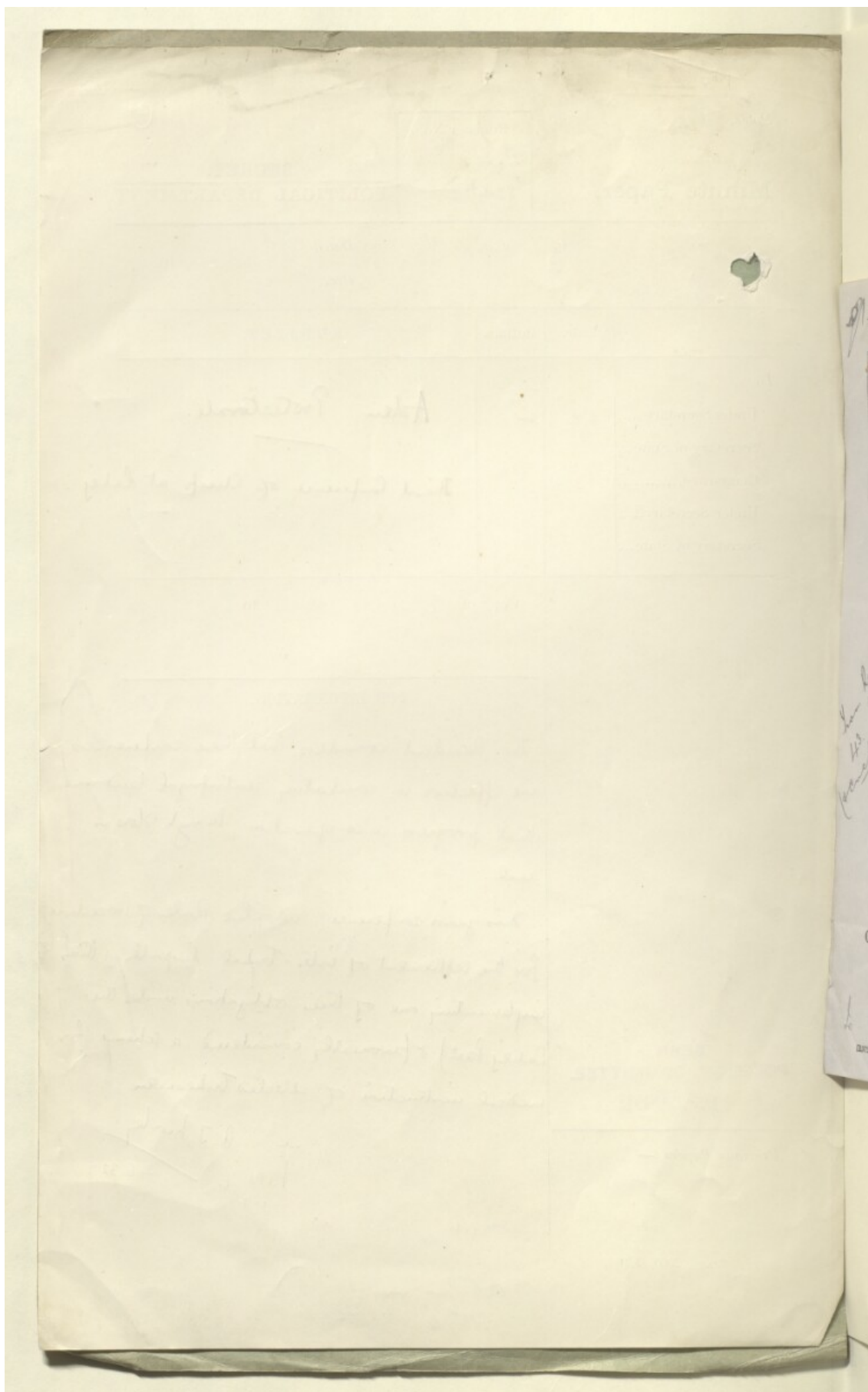
This year's conference adopted Rules of Procedure for the settlement of inter-tribal disputes (thus implementing one of their obligations under the Lahij Pact) & favourably considered a scheme for medical instruction of selected tribesmen.

SEEN
 POLITICAL COMMITTEE
 15 JUN 1932

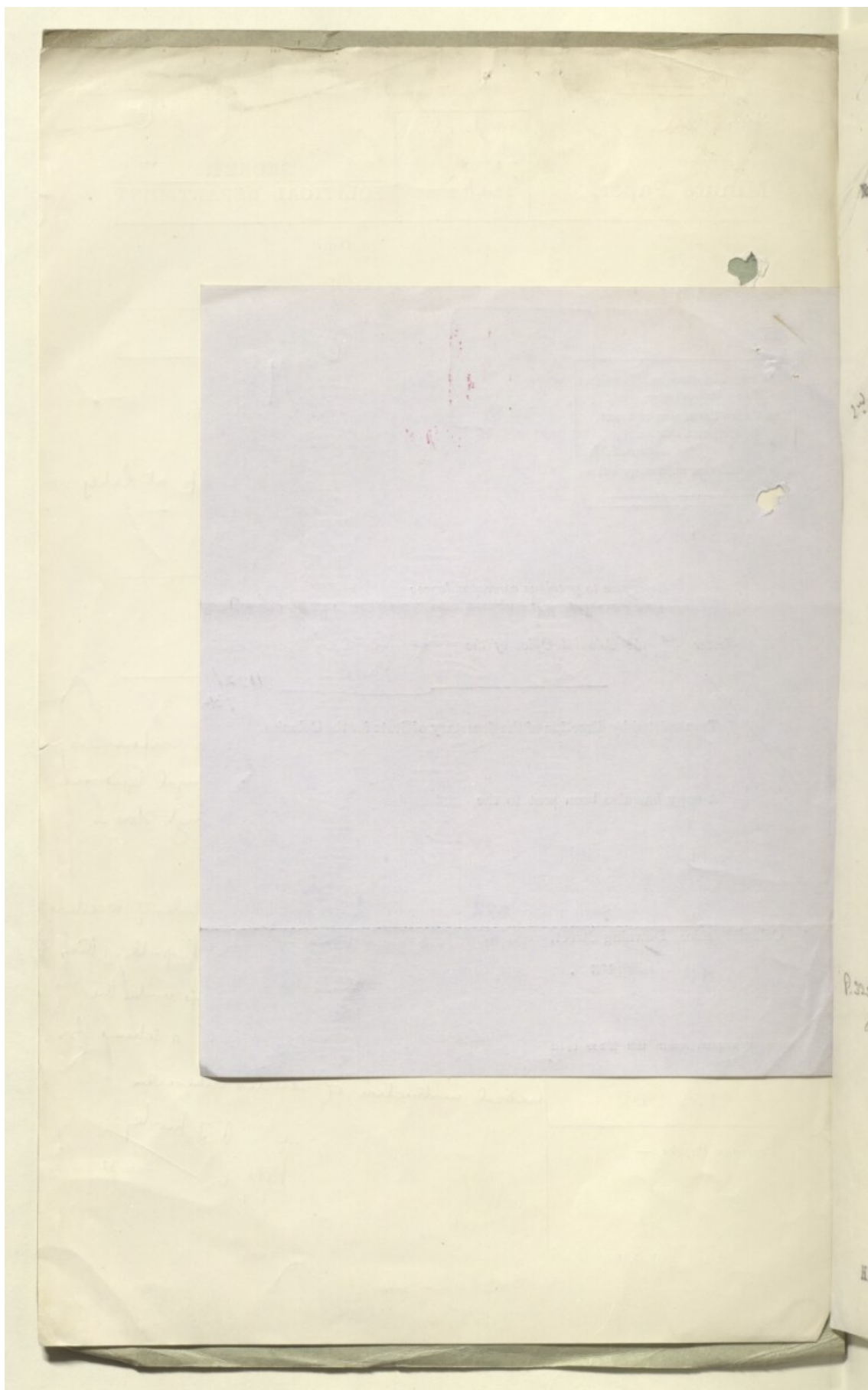
Previous Papers :—

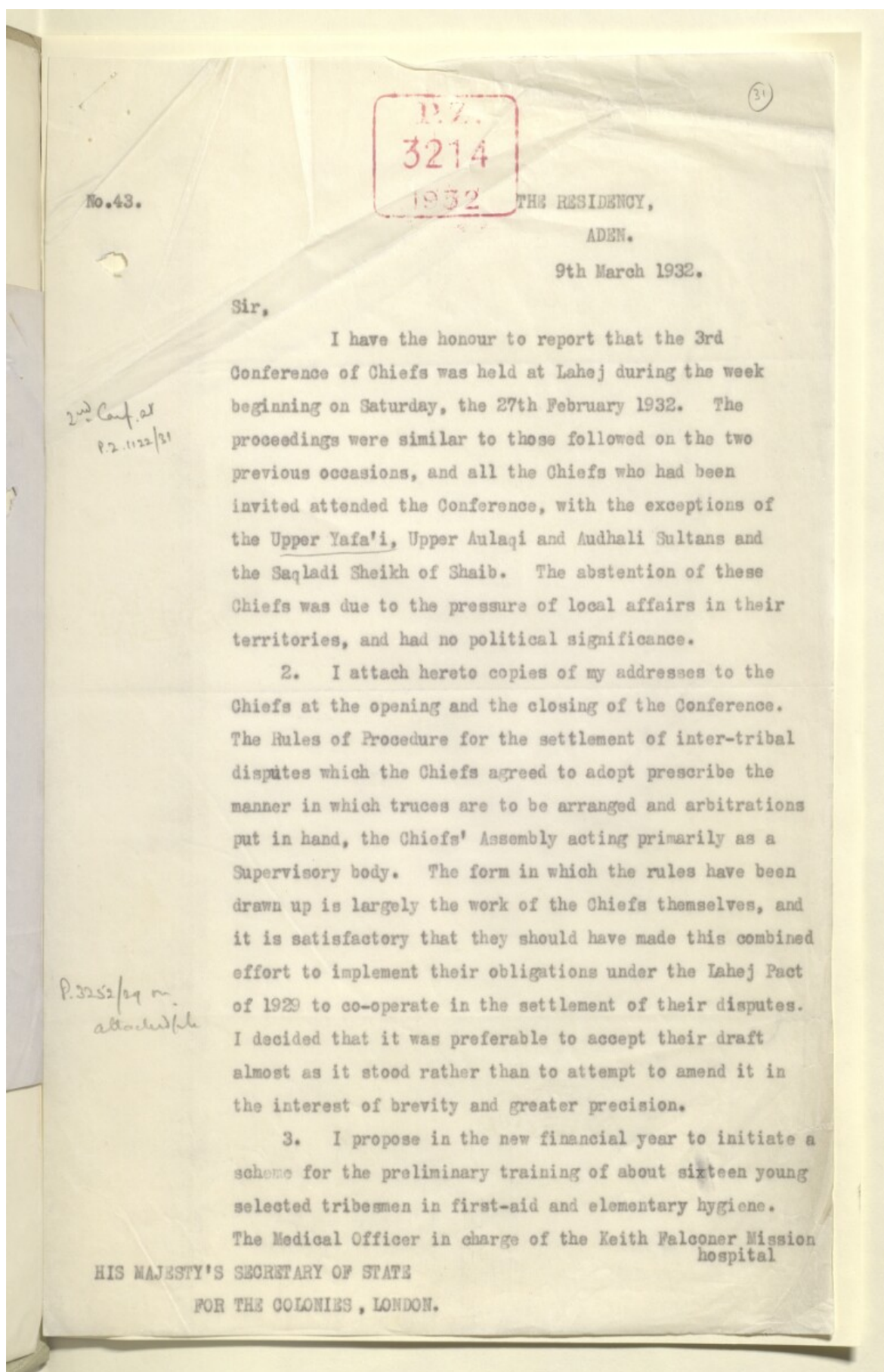
A.F. Huxley
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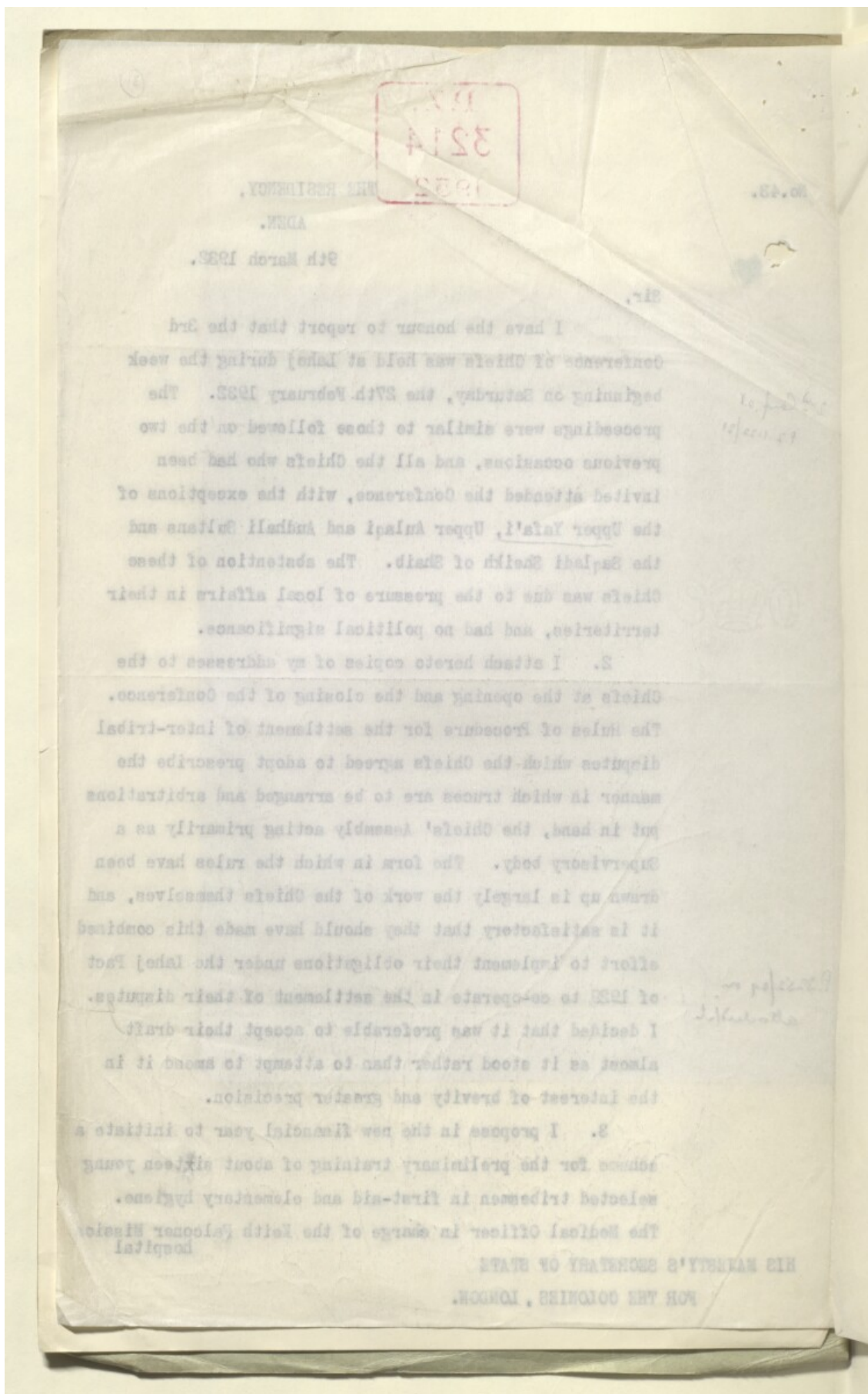
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(32)

hospital has consented to conduct the courses of instruction.

4. The periodic meetings of the Chiefs of the western portion of the Protectorate were initiated by Sir Stewart Symes with the intention of perpetuating and developing the policy which he embodied in the Lahej Pact. They are justified if they are effective in combating the centrifugal tendencies of the tribes and in educating the Chiefs in a sense of their individual responsibilities and of the importance of co-operation. I feel that they are being successful in these respects, and that although progress is slow it is real. The Chiefs appear to be learning to realise the value of friendly discussion of matters that affect their common interests, and to appreciate the desirability of finding means to adjust their mutual differences.

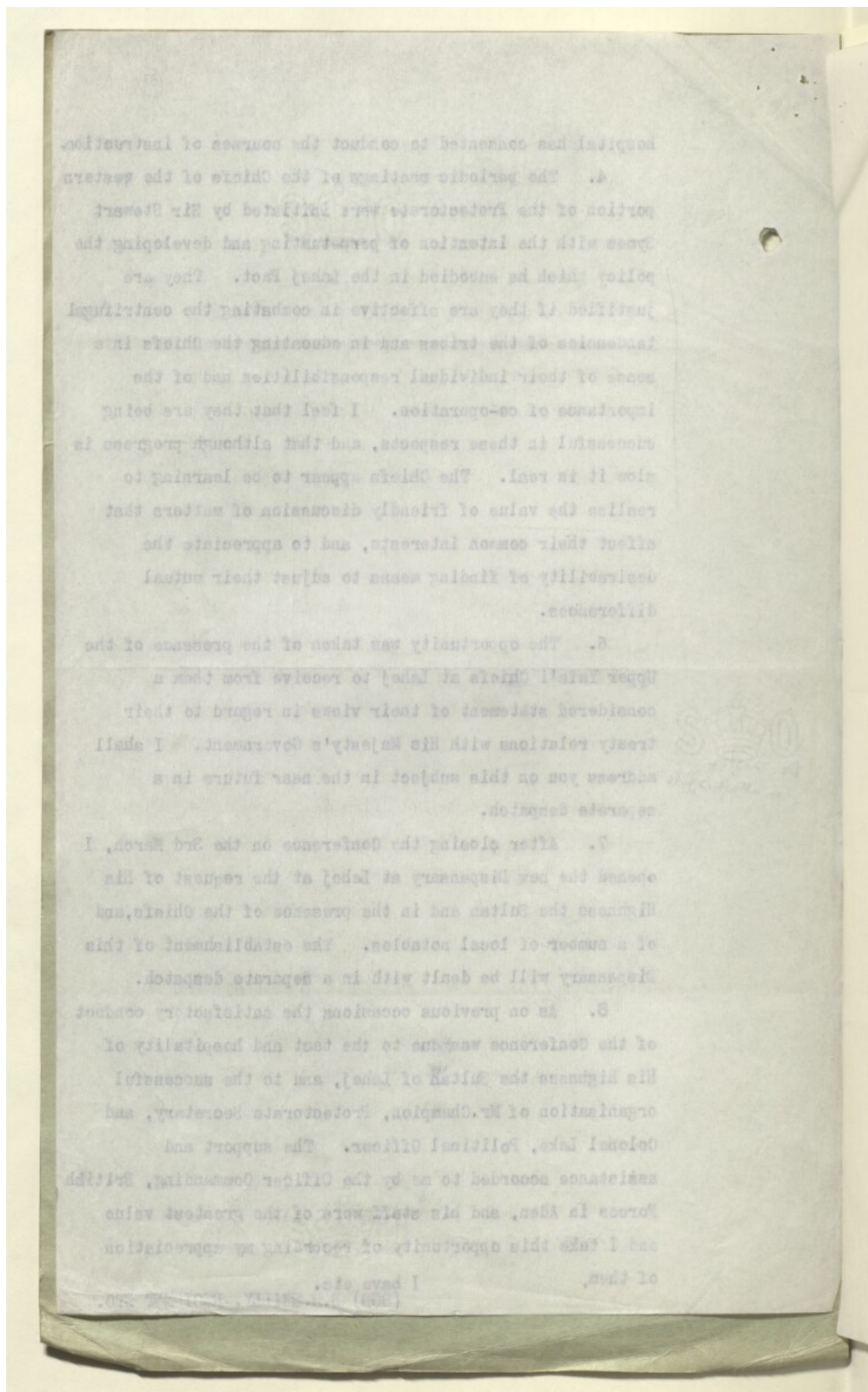
P2. 3213/32
on attached file

6. The opportunity was taken of the presence of the Upper Yafa'i Chiefs at Lahej to receive from them a considered statement of their views in regard to their treaty relations with His Majesty's Government. I shall address you on this subject in the near future in a separate despatch.

7. After closing the Conference on the 3rd March, I opened the new Dispensary at Lahej at the request of His Highness the Sultan and in the presence of the Chiefs, and of a number of local notables. The establishment of this Dispensary will be dealt with in a separate despatch.

8. As on previous occasions the satisfactory conduct of the Conference was due to the tact and hospitality of His Highness the Sultan of Lahej, and to the successful organisation of Mr. Champion, Protectorate Secretary, and Colonel Lake, Political Officer. The support and assistance accorded to me by the Officer Commanding, British Forces in Aden, and his staff were of the greatest value and I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of them.

I have etc.
(SGD) B.R. REILLY. RESIDENT ETC.





(33)

LAHEJ ADDRESS.

Your Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim bin Fadhl,
Sultans and Chiefs,

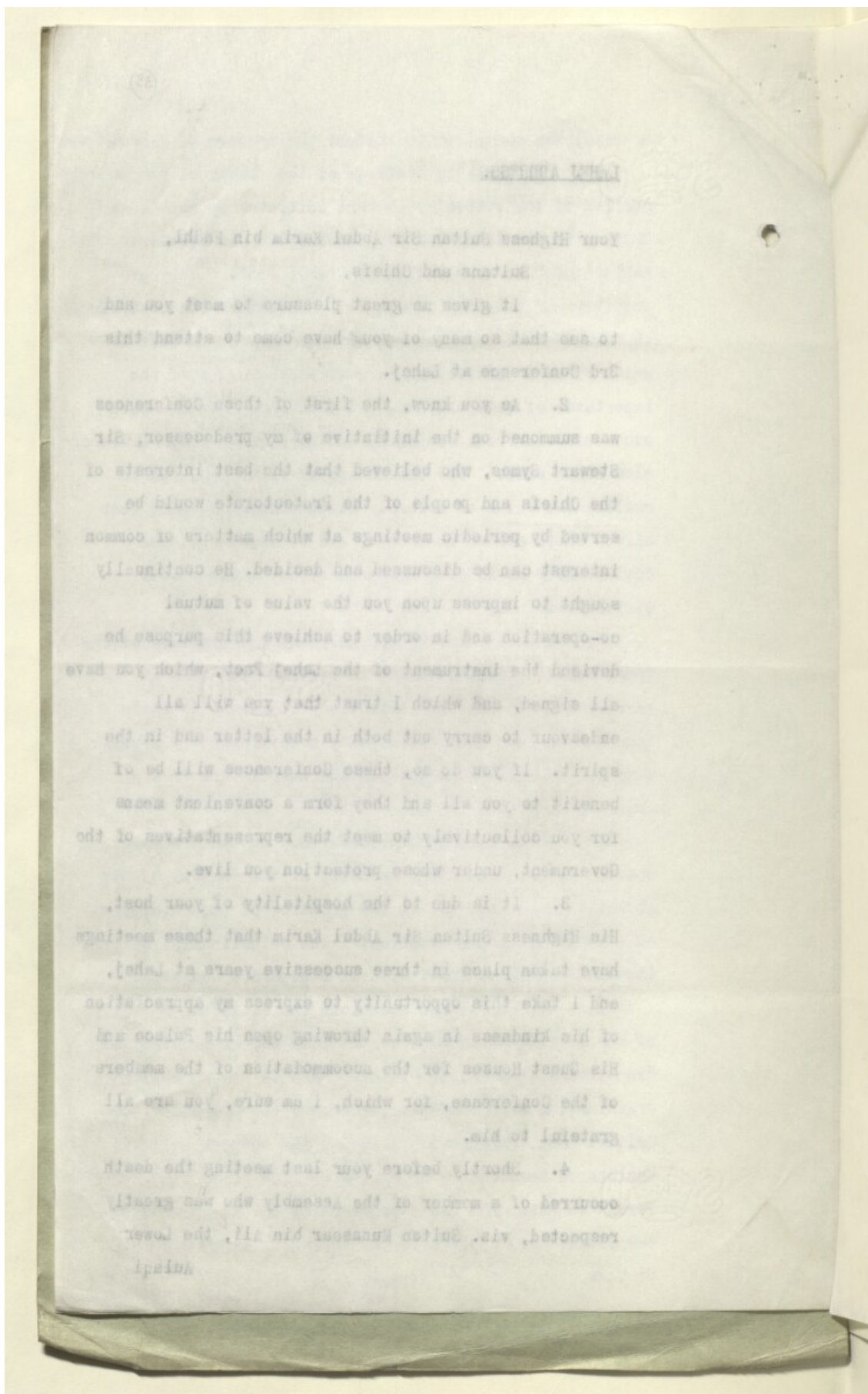
It gives me great pleasure to meet you and to see that so many of you have come to attend this 3rd Conference at Lahej.

2. As you know, the first of these Conferences was summoned on the initiative of my predecessor, Sir Stewart Symes, who believed that the best interests of the Chiefs and people of the Protectorate would be served by periodic meetings at which matters of common interest can be discussed and decided. He continually sought to impress upon you the value of mutual co-operation and in order to achieve this purpose he devised the instrument of the Lahej Pact, which you have all signed, and which I trust that you will all endeavour to carry out both in the letter and in the spirit. If you do so, these Conferences will be of benefit to you all and they form a convenient means for you collectively to meet the representatives of the Government, under whose protection you live.

3. It is due to the hospitality of your host, His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim that these meetings have taken place in three successive years at Lahej, and I take this opportunity to express my appreciation of his kindness in again throwing open his Palace and His Guest Houses for the accommodation of the members of the Conference, for which, I am sure, you are all grateful to him.

4. Shortly before your last meeting the death occurred of a member of the Assembly who was greatly respected, viz. Sultan Munassar bin Ali, the Lower

Aulaqi





(34)

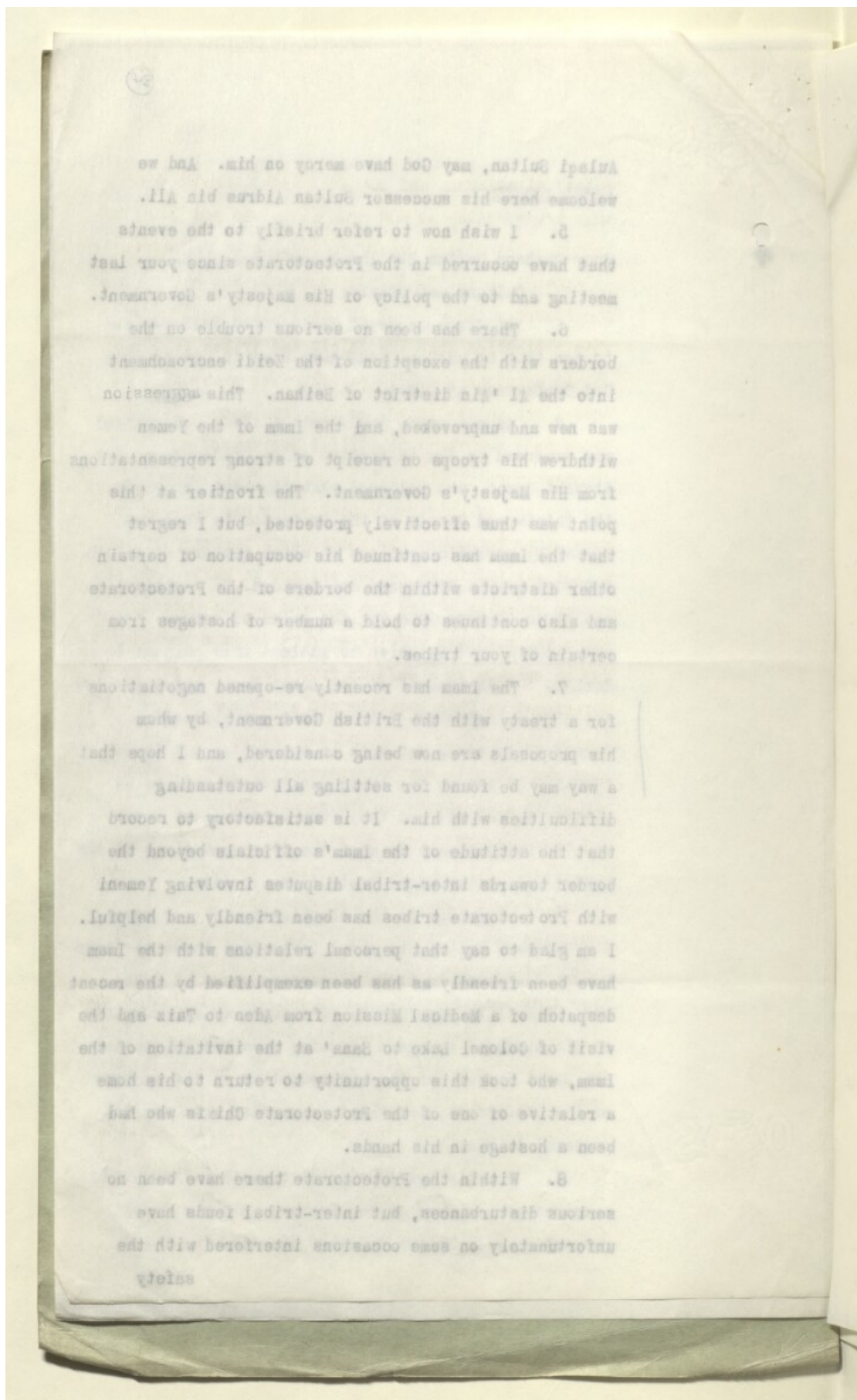
Aulaqi Sultan, may God have mercy on him. And we welcome here his successor Sultan Aidrus bin Ali.

5. I wish now to refer briefly to the events that have occurred in the Protectorate since your last meeting and to the policy of His Majesty's Government.

6. There has been no serious trouble on the borders with the exception of the Zeidi encroachment into the Al 'Ain district of Beihan. This aggression was new and unprovoked, and the Imam of the Yemen withdrew his troops on receipt of strong representations from His Majesty's Government. The frontier at this point was thus effectively protected, but I regret that the Imam has continued his occupation of certain other districts within the borders of the Protectorate and also continues to hold a number of hostages from certain of your tribes.

7. The Imam has recently re-opened negotiations for a treaty with the British Government, by whom his proposals are now being considered, and I hope that a way may be found for settling all outstanding difficulties with him. It is satisfactory to record that the attitude of the Imam's officials beyond the border towards inter-tribal disputes involving Yemeni with Protectorate tribes has been friendly and helpful. I am glad to say that personal relations with the Imam have been friendly as has been exemplified by the recent despatch of a Medical Mission from Aden to Taiz and the visit of Colonel Lake to Sana' at the invitation of the Imam, who took this opportunity to return to his home a relative of one of the Protectorate Chiefs who had been a hostage in his hands.

8. Within the Protectorate there have been no serious disturbances, but inter-tribal feuds have unfortunately on some occasions interfered with the safety

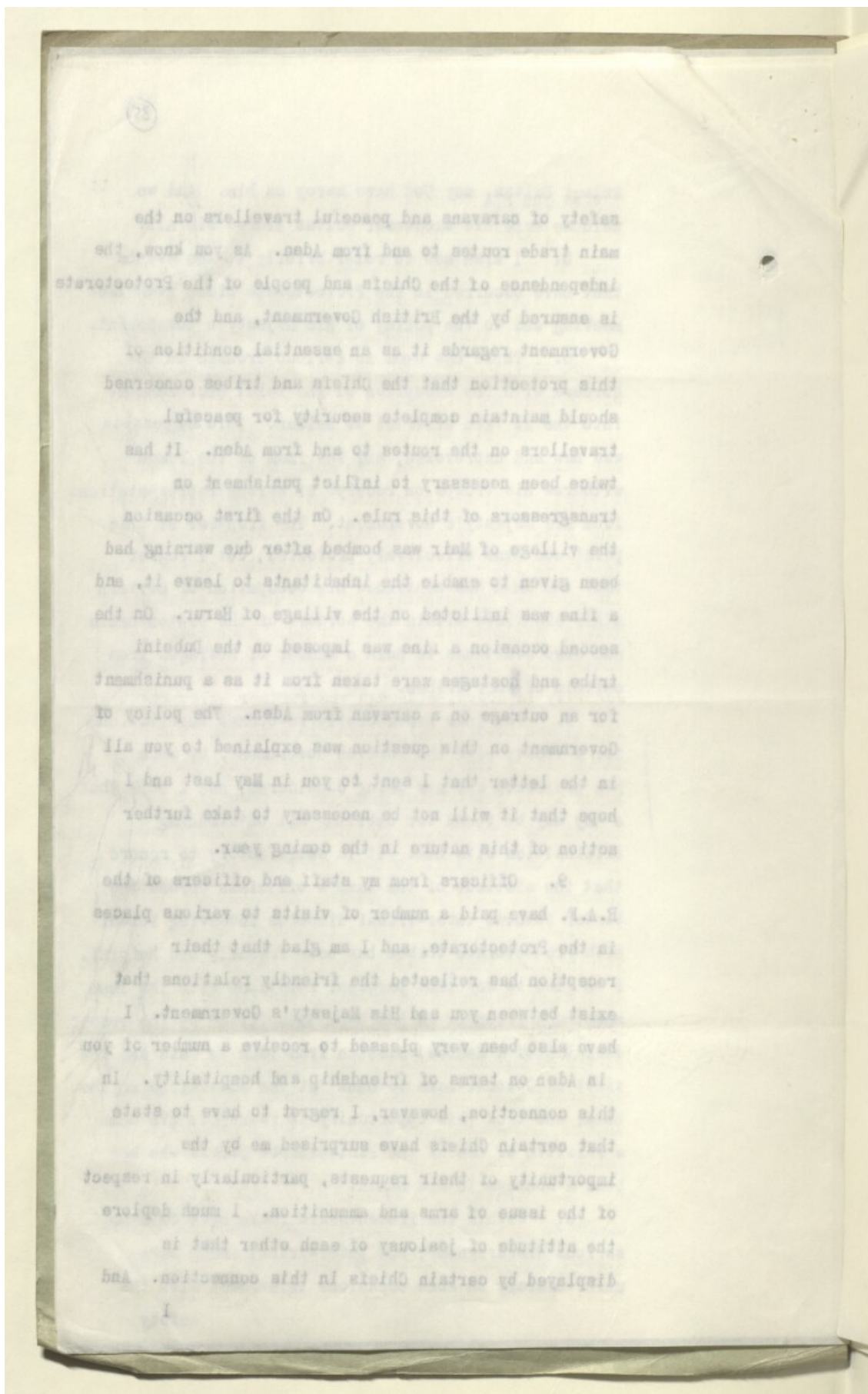




(35)

safety of caravans and peaceful travellers on the main trade routes to and from Aden. As you know, the independence of the Chiefs and people of the Protectorate is ensured by the British Government, and the Government regards it as an essential condition of this protection that the Chiefs and tribes concerned should maintain complete security for peaceful travellers on the routes to and from Aden. It has twice been necessary to inflict punishment on transgressors of this rule. On the first occasion the village of Mair was bombed after due warning had been given to enable the inhabitants to leave it, and a fine was inflicted on the village of Harur. On the second occasion a fine was imposed on the Dubeini tribe and hostages were taken from it as a punishment for an outrage on a caravan from Aden. The policy of Government on this question was explained to you all in the letter that I sent to you in May last and I hope that it will not be necessary to take further action of this nature in the coming year.

9. Officers from my staff and officers of the R.A.F. have paid a number of visits to various places in the Protectorate, and I am glad that their reception has reflected the friendly relations that exist between you and His Majesty's Government. I have also been very pleased to receive a number of you in Aden on terms of friendship and hospitality. In this connection, however, I regret to have to state that certain Chiefs have surprised me by the importunity of their requests, particularly in respect of the issue of arms and ammunition. I much deplore the attitude of jealousy of each other that is displayed by certain Chiefs in this connection. And





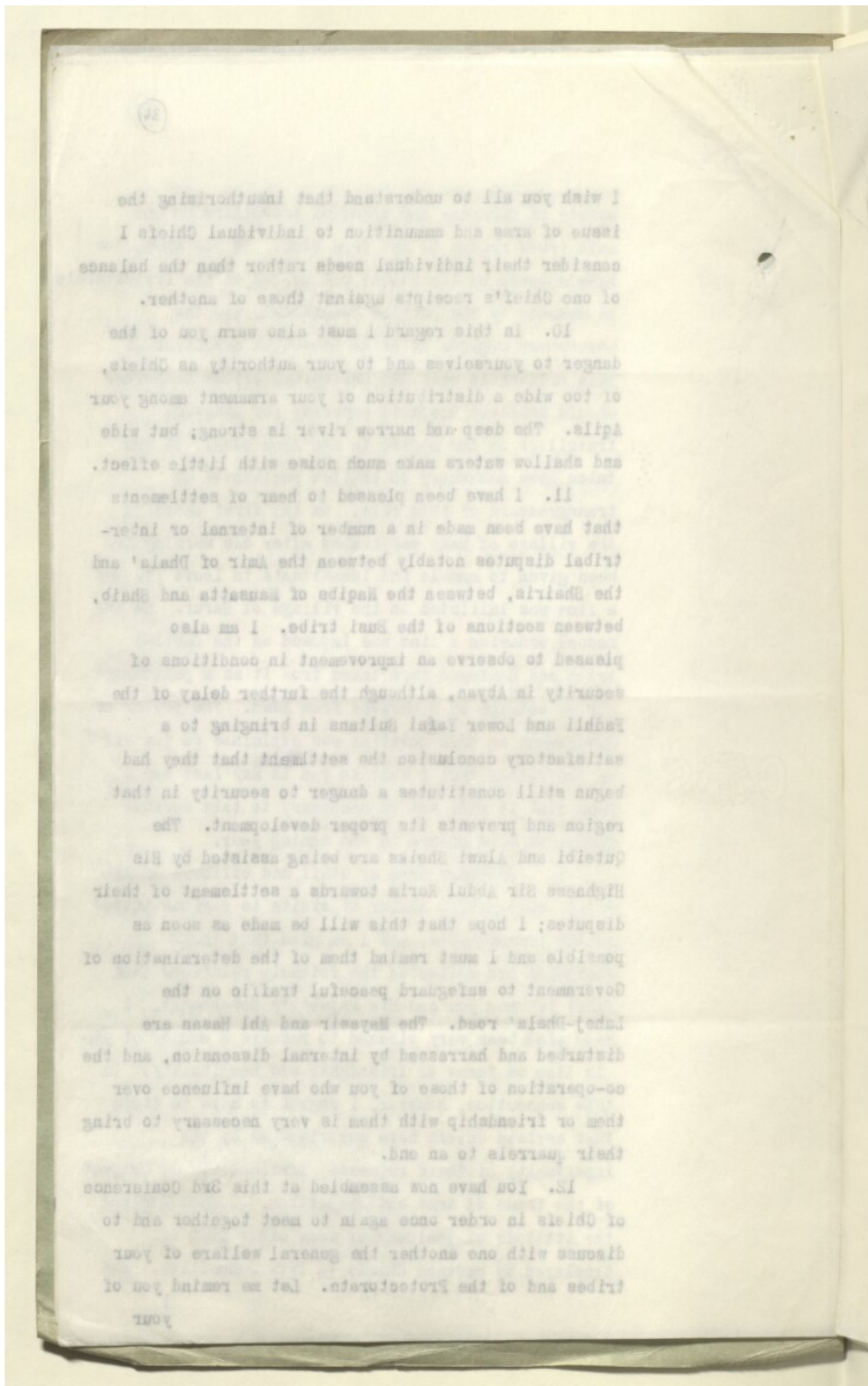
(36)

I wish you all to understand that inauthorising the issue of arms and ammunition to individual Chiefs I consider their individual needs rather than the balance of one Chief's receipts against those of another.

10. In this regard I must also warn you of the danger to yourselves and to your authority as Chiefs, of too wide a distribution of your armament among your Aqils. The deep and narrow river is strong; but wide and shallow waters make much noise with little effect.

11. I have been pleased to hear of settlements that have been made in a number of internal or inter-tribal disputes notably between the Amir of Dhala' and the Shairis, between the Naqibs of Mausatta and Shaib, between sections of the Busi tribe. I am also pleased to observe an improvement in conditions of security in Abyan, although the further delay of the Fadhli and Lower Yafai Sultans in bringing to a satisfactory conclusion the settlement that they had begun still constitutes a danger to security in that region and prevents its proper development. The Quteibi and Alawi Sheiks are being assisted by His Highness Sir Abdul Karim towards a settlement of their disputes; I hope that this will be made as soon as possible and I must remind them of the determination of Government to safeguard peaceful traffic on the Lahej-Dhala' road. The Mayasir and Ahl Hasan are disturbed and harrassed by internal dissension, and the co-operation of those of you who have influence over them or friendship with them is very necessary to bring their quarrels to an end.

12. You have now assembled at this 3rd Conference of Chiefs in order once again to meet together and to discuss with one another the general welfare of your tribes and of the Protectorate. Let me remind you of
your





(37)

your obligations under the Lahej Pact of 1929, which oblige you,

firstly to co-operate with His Majesty's Government for external defence.

secondly to organise by common action the security and improvement of communications.

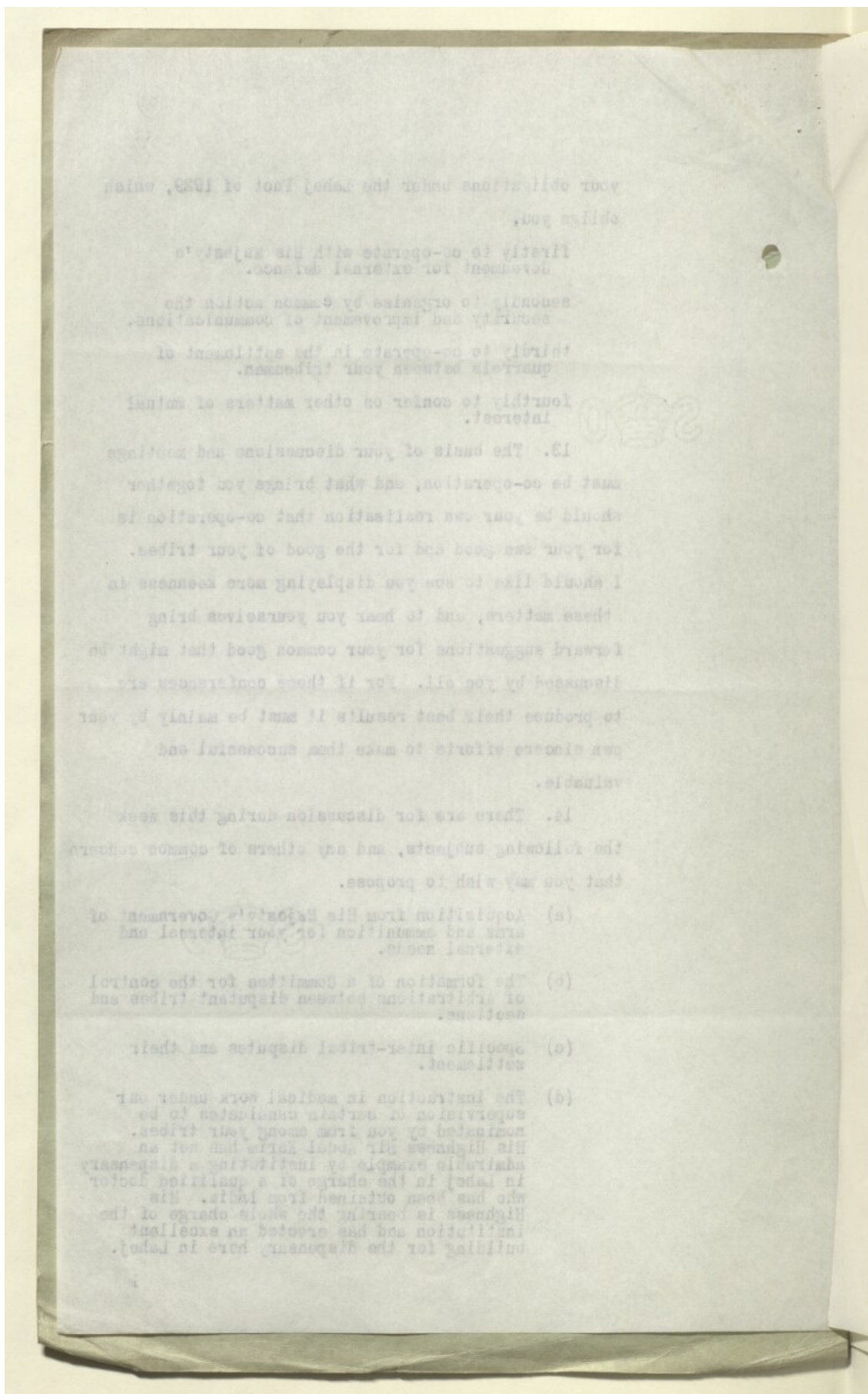
thirdly to co-operate in the settlement of quarrels between your tribesmen.

fourthly to confer on other matters of mutual interest.

13. The basis of your discussions and meetings must be co-operation, and what brings you together should be your own realisation that co-operation is for your own good and for the good of your tribes. I should like to see you displaying more keenness in these matters, and to hear you yourselves bring forward suggestions for your common good that might be discussed by you all. For if these conferences are to produce their best results it must be mainly by your own sincere efforts to make them successful and valuable.

14. There are for discussion during this week the following subjects, and any others of common concern that you may wish to propose.

- (a) Acquisition from His Majesty's Government of arms and ammunition for your internal and external needs.
- (b) The formation of a Committee for the control of Arbitrations between disputant tribes and sections.
- (c) Specific inter-tribal disputes and their settlement.
- (d) The instruction in medical work under our supervision of certain candidates to be nominated by you from among your tribes. His Highness Sir Abdul Karim has set an admirable example by instituting a dispensary in Lahej in the charge of a qualified doctor who has been obtained from India. His Highness is bearing the whole charge of the institution and has erected an excellent building for the dispensary here in Lahej.



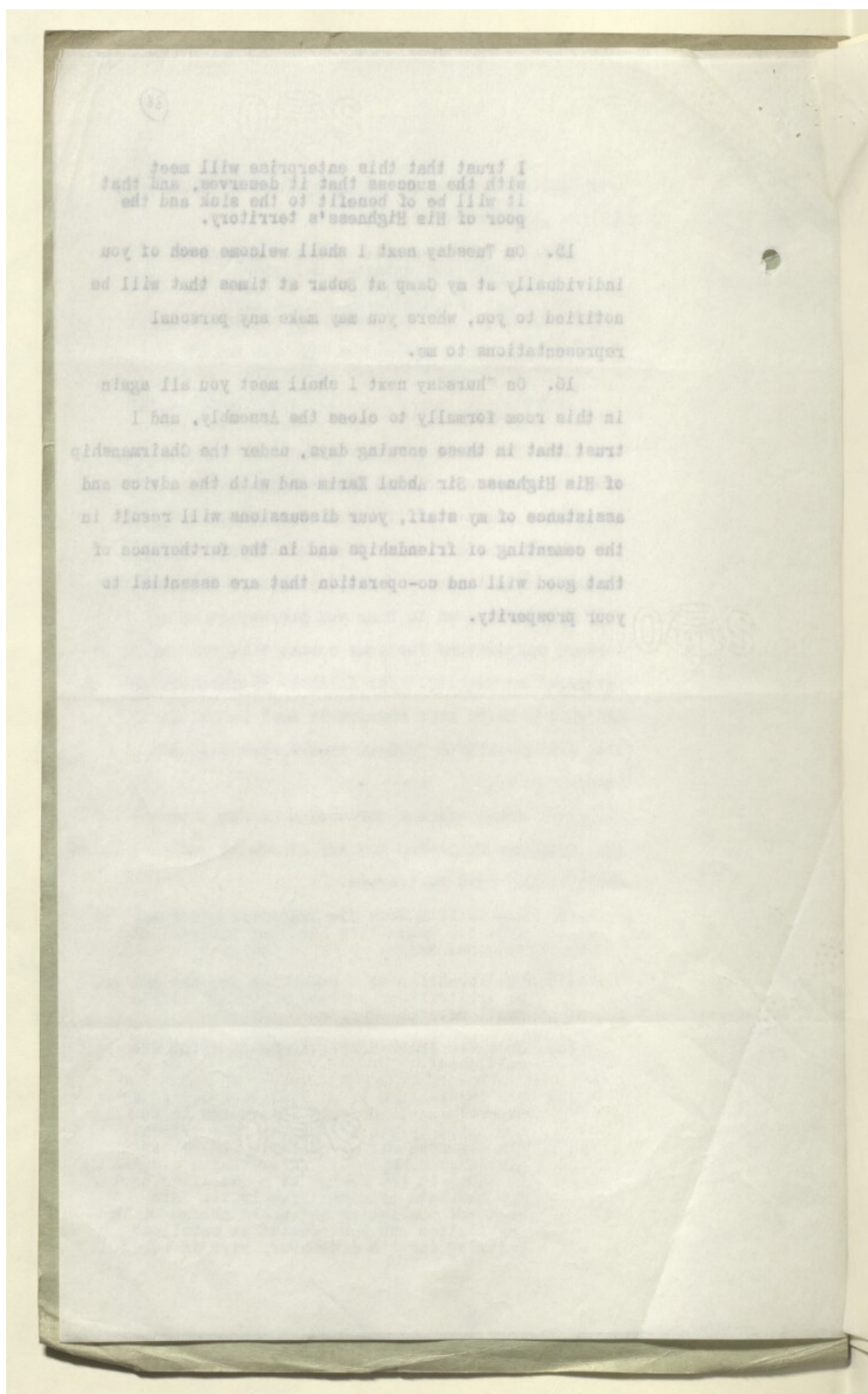


(38)

I trust that this enterprise will meet with the success that it deserves, and that it will be of benefit to the sick and the poor of His Highness's territory.

15. On Tuesday next I shall welcome each of you individually at my Camp at Subar at times that will be notified to you, where you may make any personal representations to me.

16. On Thursday next I shall meet you all again in this room formally to close the Assembly, and I trust that in these ensuing days, under the Chairmanship of His Highness Sir Abdul Karim and with the advice and assistance of my staff, your discussions will result in the cementing of friendships and in the furtherance of that good will and co-operation that are essential to your prosperity.





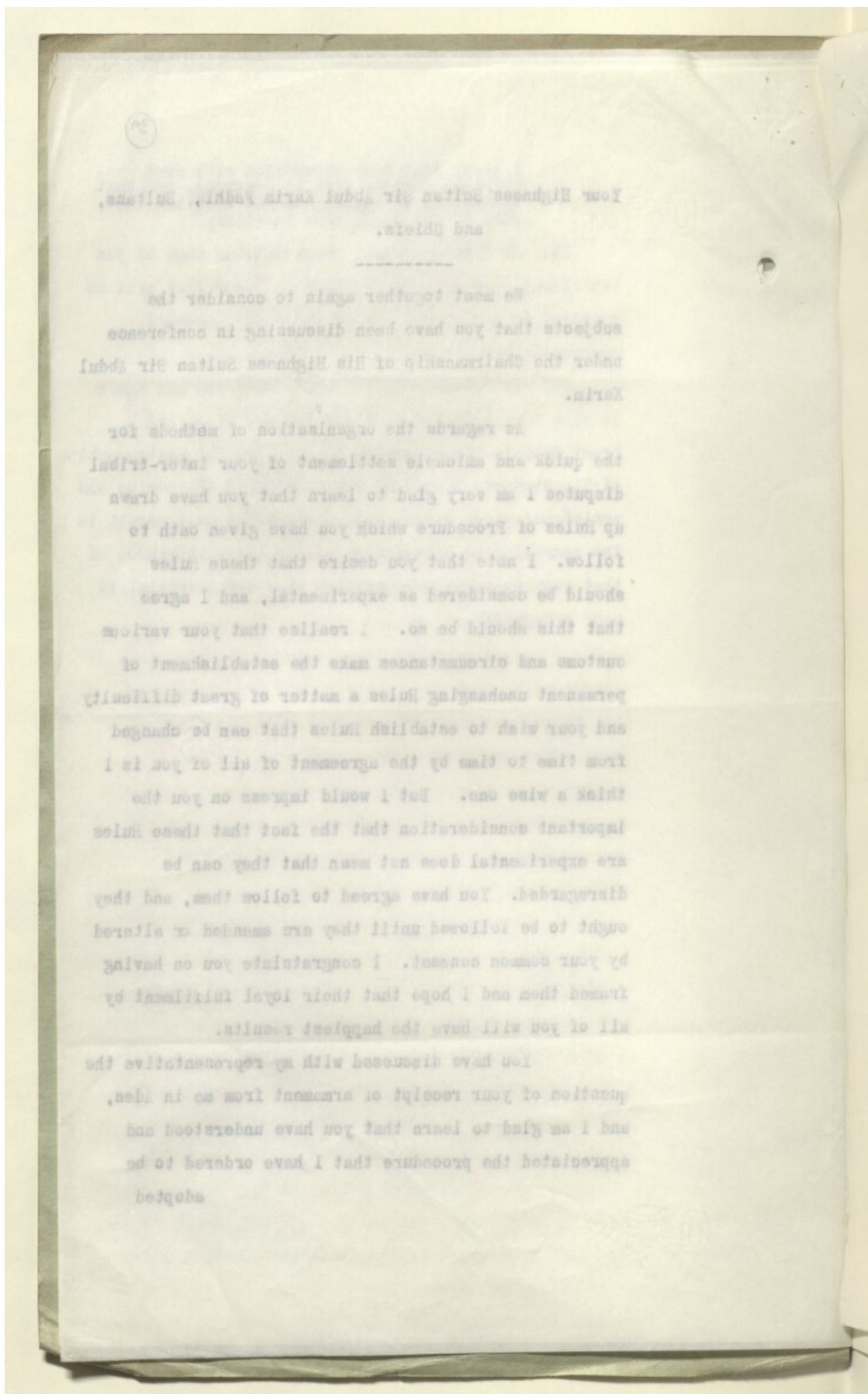
(39)

Your Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim Fadhli, Sultans,
and Chiefs.

We meet together again to consider the subjects that you have been discussing in conference under the Chairmanship of His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim.

As regards the organisation of methods for the quick and amicable settlement of your inter-tribal disputes I am very glad to learn that you have drawn up Rules of Procedure which you have given oath to follow. I note that you desire that these Rules should be considered as experimental, and I agree that this should be so. I realise that your various customs and circumstances make the establishment of permanent unchanging Rules a matter of great difficulty and your wish to establish Rules that can be changed from time to time by the agreement of all of you is I think a wise one. But I would impress on you the important consideration that the fact that these Rules are experimental does not mean that they can be disregarded. You have agreed to follow them, and they ought to be followed until they are amended or altered by your common consent. I congratulate you on having framed them and I hope that their loyal fulfilment by all of you will have the happiest results.

You have discussed with my representative the question of your receipt of armament from me in Aden, and I am glad to learn that you have understood and appreciated the procedure that I have ordered to be adopted





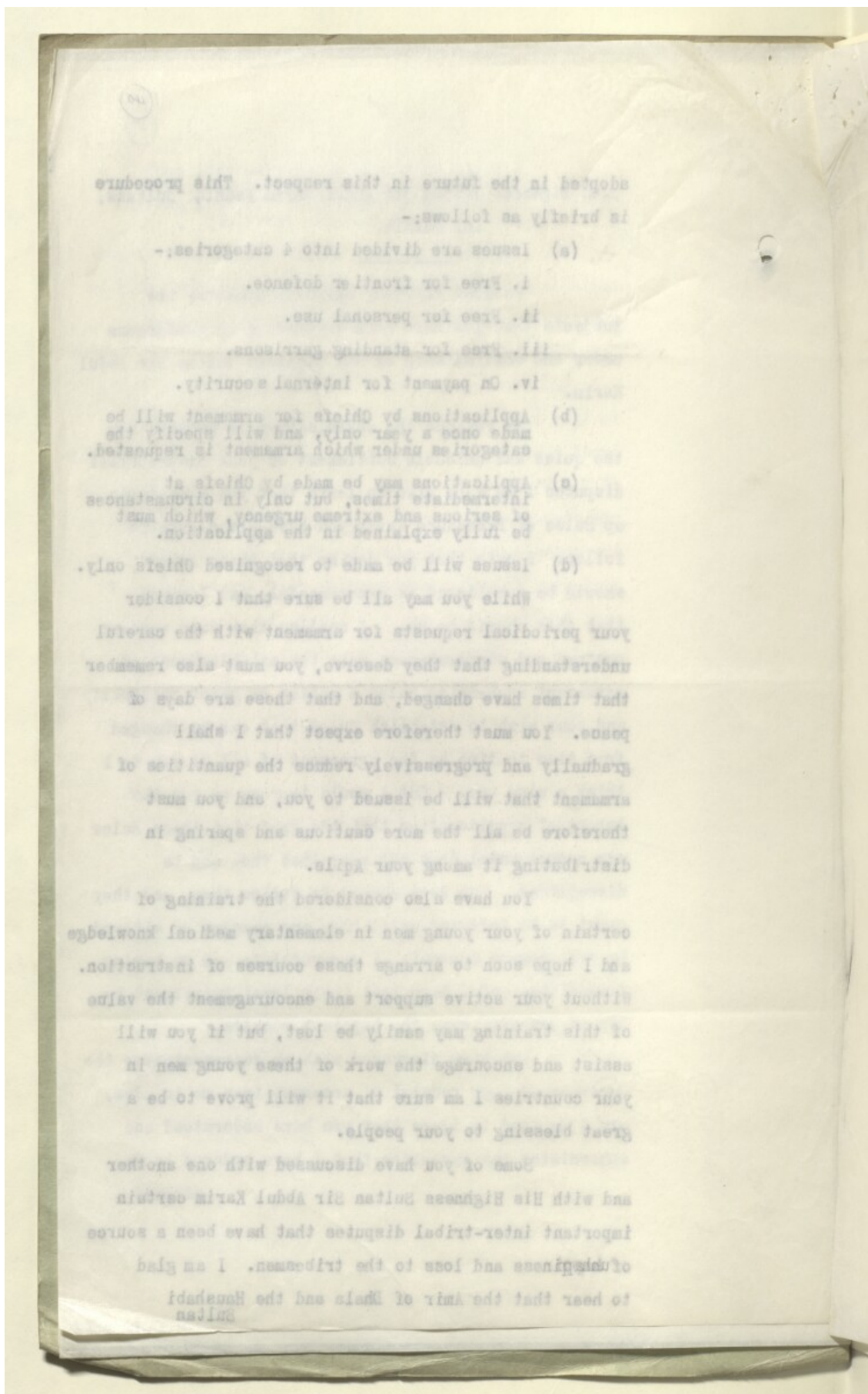
140
adopted in the future in this respect. This procedure is briefly as follows:-

- (a) Issues are divided into 4 categories:-
 - i. Free for frontier defence.
 - ii. Free for personal use.
 - iii. Free for standing garrisons.
 - iv. On payment for internal security.
- (b) Applications by Chiefs for armament will be made once a year only, and will specify the categories under which armament is requested.
- (c) Applications may be made by Chiefs at intermediate times, but only in circumstances of serious and extreme urgency, which must be fully explained in the application.
- (d) Issues will be made to recognised Chiefs only.

While you may all be sure that I consider your periodical requests for armament with the careful understanding that they deserve, you must also remember that times have changed, and that these are days of peace. You must therefore expect that I shall gradually and progressively reduce the quantities of armament that will be issued to you, and you must therefore be all the more cautious and sparing in distributing it among your Aqils.

You have also considered the training of certain of your young men in elementary medical knowledge and I hope soon to arrange these courses of instruction. Without your active support and encouragement the value of this training may easily be lost, but if you will assist and encourage the work of these young men in your countries I am sure that it will prove to be a great blessing to your people.

Some of you have discussed with one another and with His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim certain important inter-tribal disputes that have been a source of unhappiness and loss to the tribesmen. I am glad to hear that the Amir of Dhala and the Haushabi Sultan



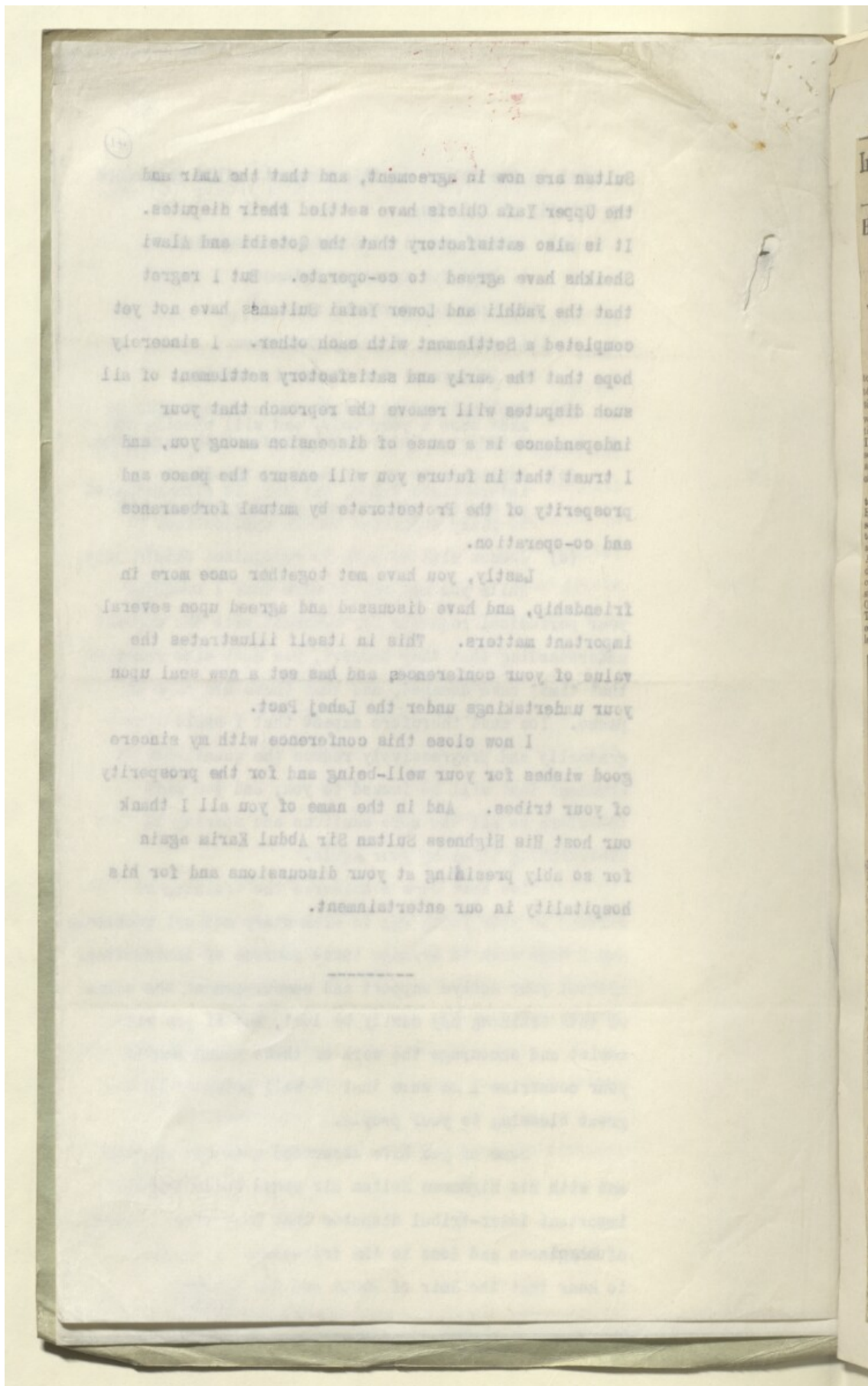


(41)

Sultan are now in agreement, and that the Amir and the Upper Yafa Chiefs have settled their disputes. It is also satisfactory that the Qoteibi and Alawi Sheikhs have agreed to co-operate. But I regret that the Fadhli and Lower Yafai Sultans have not yet completed a Settlement with each other. I sincerely hope that the early and satisfactory settlement of all such disputes will remove the reproach that your independence is a cause of dissension among you, and I trust that in future you will ensure the peace and prosperity of the Protectorate by mutual forbearance and co-operation.

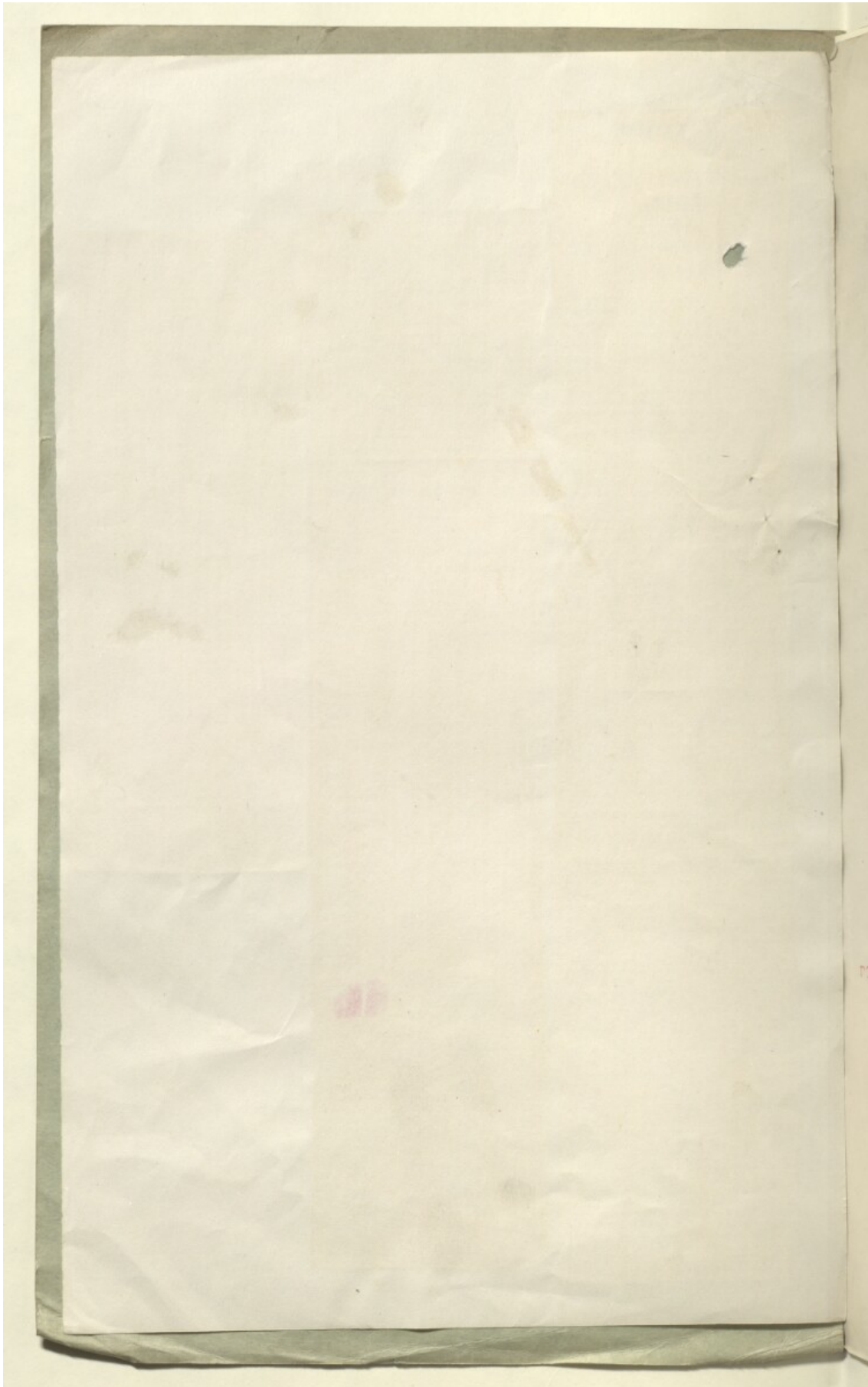
Lastly, you have met together once more in friendship, and have discussed and agreed upon several important matters. This in itself illustrates the value of your conferences, and has set a new seal upon your undertakings under the Lahej Pact.

I now close this conference with my sincere good wishes for your well-being and for the prosperity of your tribes. And in the name of you all I thank our host His Highness Sultan Sir Abdul Karim again for so ably presiding at your discussions and for his hospitality in our entertainment.





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Notes.

Minute Paper.

Register No.
P.
1614/31

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			
Under Secretary	7.3	ms	Adm Protectorate
Secretary of State...			
Committee.....	2P	ms	
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

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19 MAR 1931

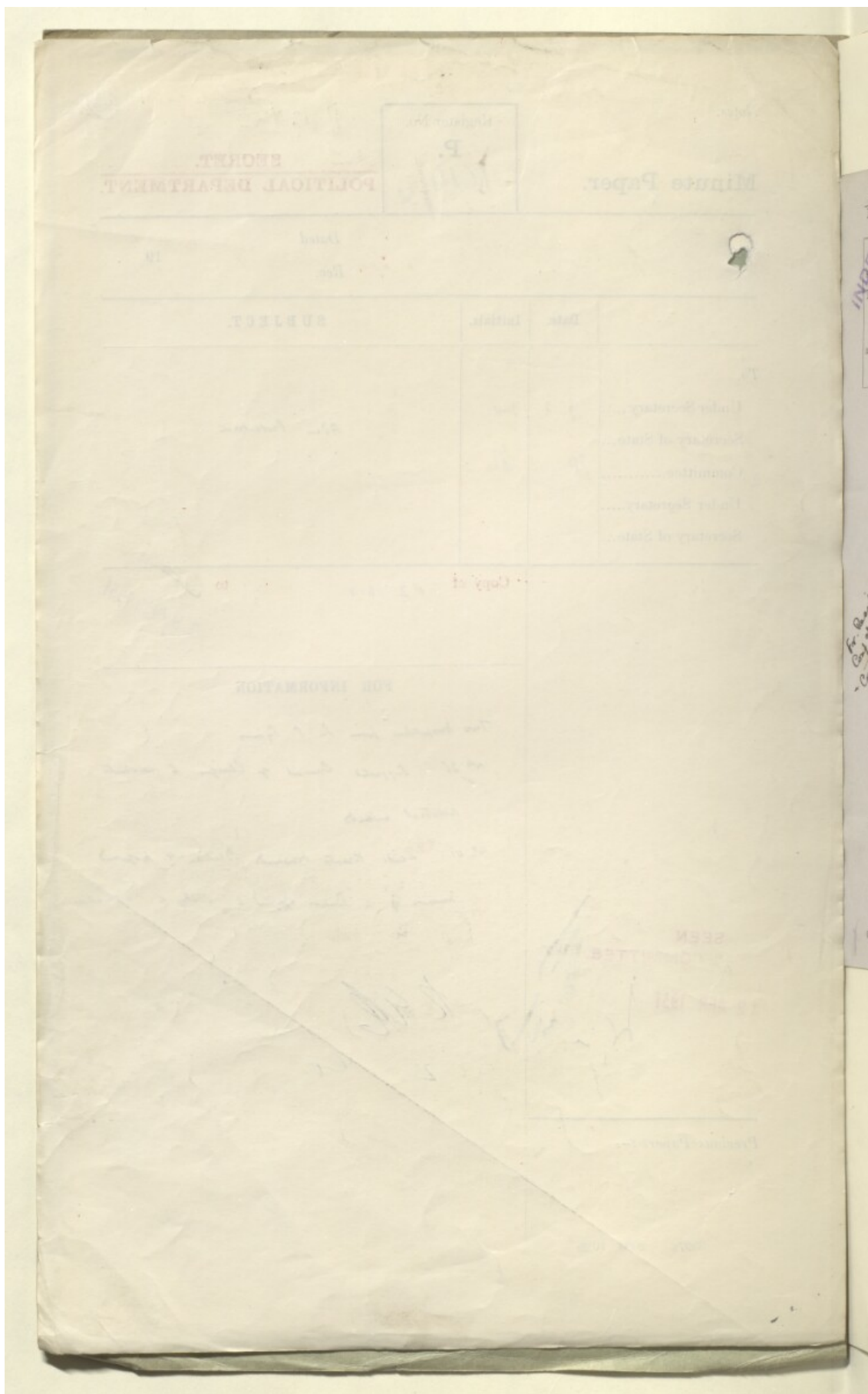
FOR INFORMATION.

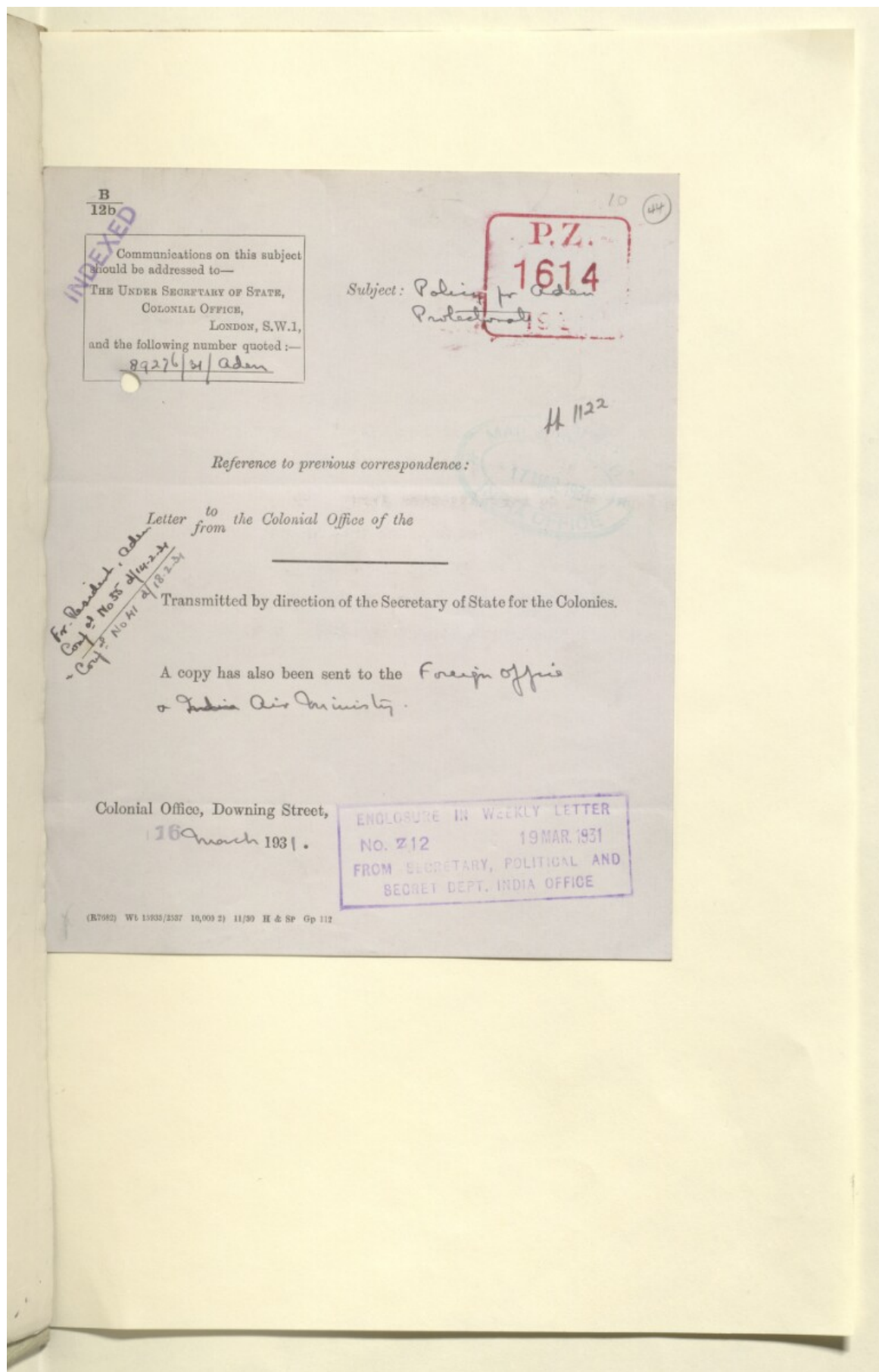
Two Proposals from A. S. Ganes
No 35 Suggested Council of Chiefs to discuss
political awards
No 41 Zaidi Khaty towards British + proposed
revision of a British Officer to study & situation.

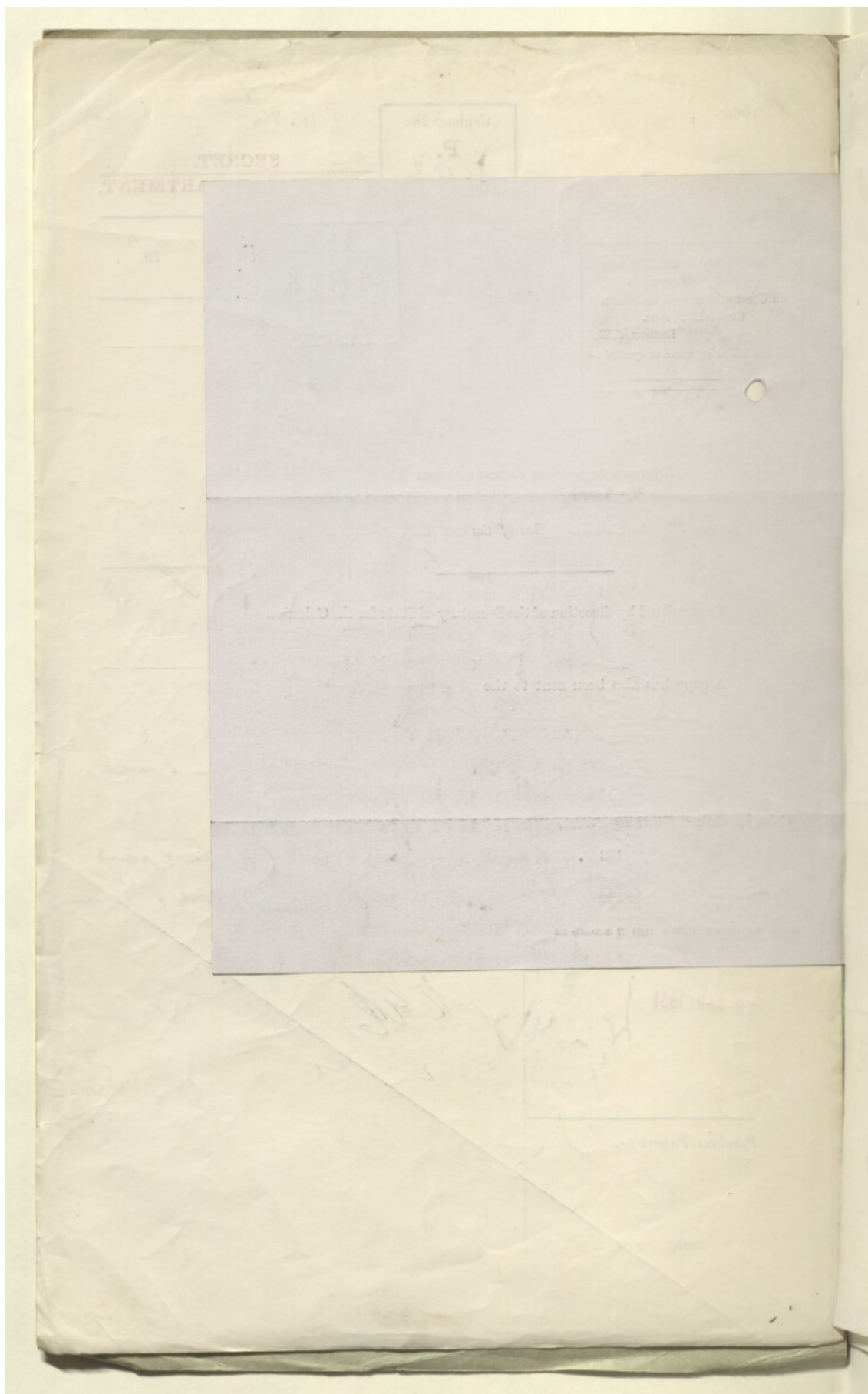
SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
2 APR 1931

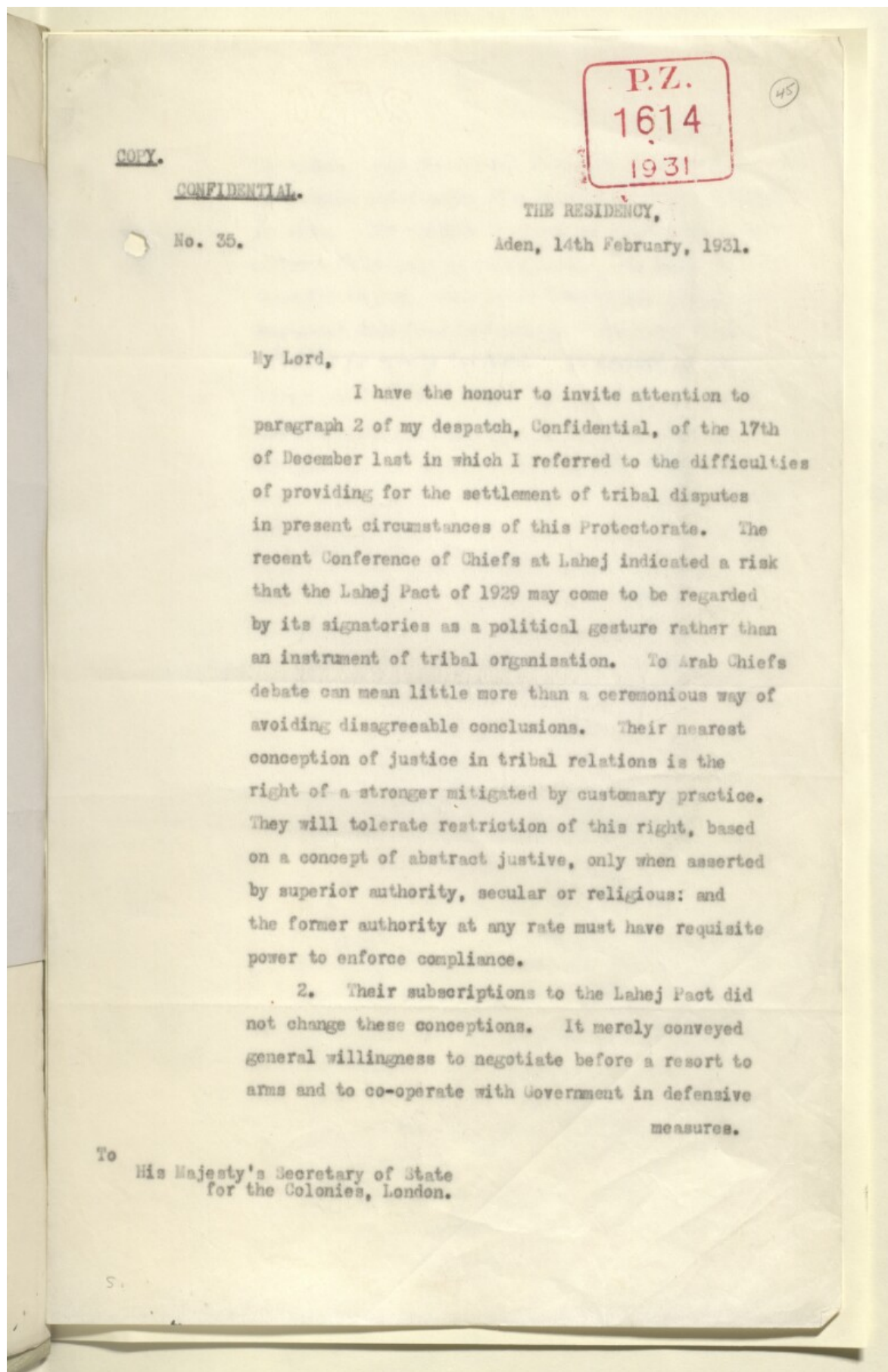
Previous Papers :--

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No. 35.

THE RESIDENCY,

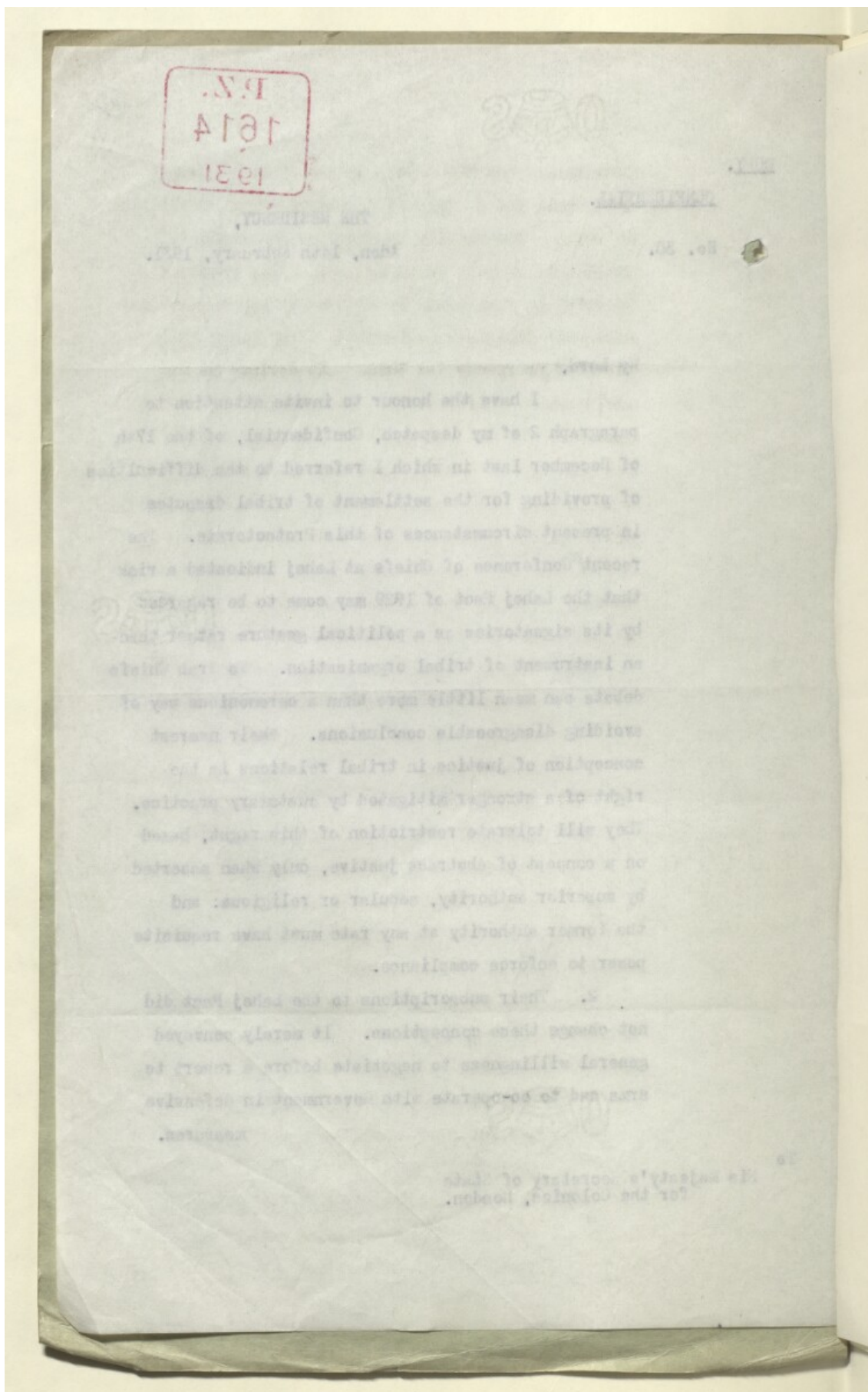
Aden, 14th February, 1931.

My Lord,

I have the honour to invite attention to paragraph 2 of my despatch, Confidential, of the 17th of December last in which I referred to the difficulties of providing for the settlement of tribal disputes in present circumstances of this Protectorate. The recent Conference of Chiefs at Lahej indicated a risk that the Lahej Pact of 1929 may come to be regarded by its signatories as a political gesture rather than an instrument of tribal organisation. To Arab Chiefs debate can mean little more than a ceremonious way of avoiding disagreeable conclusions. Their nearest conception of justice in tribal relations is the right of a stronger mitigated by customary practice. They will tolerate restriction of this right, based on a concept of abstract justice, only when asserted by superior authority, secular or religious: and the former authority at any rate must have requisite power to enforce compliance.

2. Their subscriptions to the Lahej Pact did not change these conceptions. It merely conveyed general willingness to negotiate before a resort to arms and to co-operate with Government in defensive measures.

To
His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.





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measures. Now the method of negotiation between disputants under aegis of a neutral party is familiar to them. Its utility to discover and evaluate matters in dispute is recognised. Its inherent weakness in many cases is that machinery to make and implement decisions is lacking. The Lahej Pact provided no remedy for this. It devised no new procedure in arbitration. It specified no supreme authority for the execution of arbitral awards. Its signatories have assumed that this authority in case of need would be exercised by Government; and in existing circumstances, when a dispute may involve hostilities on a considerable scale between powerful tribes, there is no practical alternative to this. In such cases a regular procedure will be by -

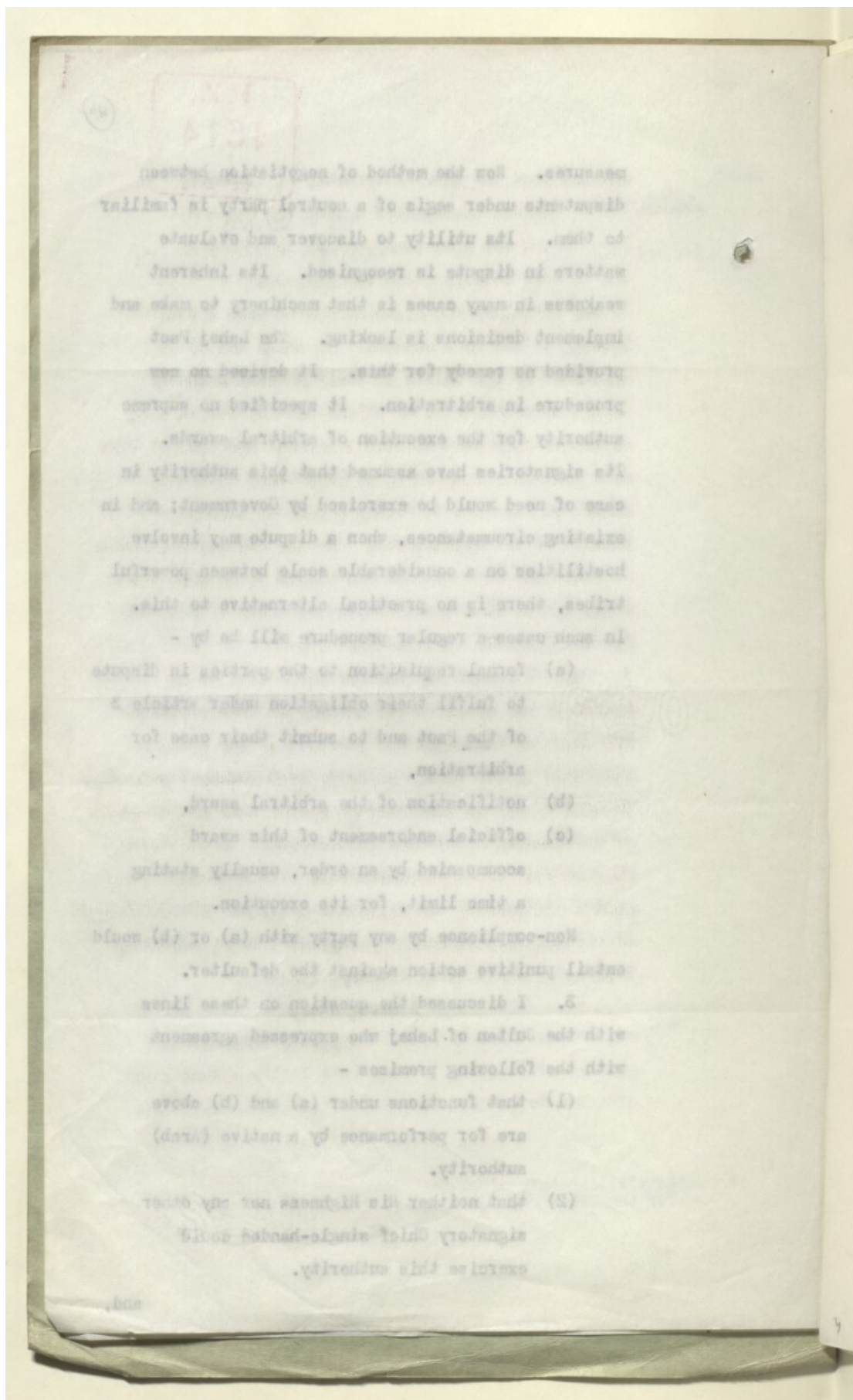
- (a) formal requisition to the parties in dispute to fulfil their obligation under article 3 of the Pact and to submit their case for arbitration,
- (b) notification of the arbitral award,
- (c) official endorsement of this award accompanied by an order, usually stating a time limit, for its execution.

Non-compliance by any party with (a) or (b) would entail punitive action against the defaulter.

3. I discussed the question on these lines with the Sultan of Lahej who expressed agreement with the following premises -

- (1) that functions under (a) and (b) above are for performance by a native (Arab) authority.
- (2) that neither His Highness nor any other signatory Chief single-handed could exercise this authority.

and,





(47)

and (3) that the general assembly of signatory
Chiefs constituted a body too unwieldy
and too slow (and costly) to summon in
any emergency for the purpose.

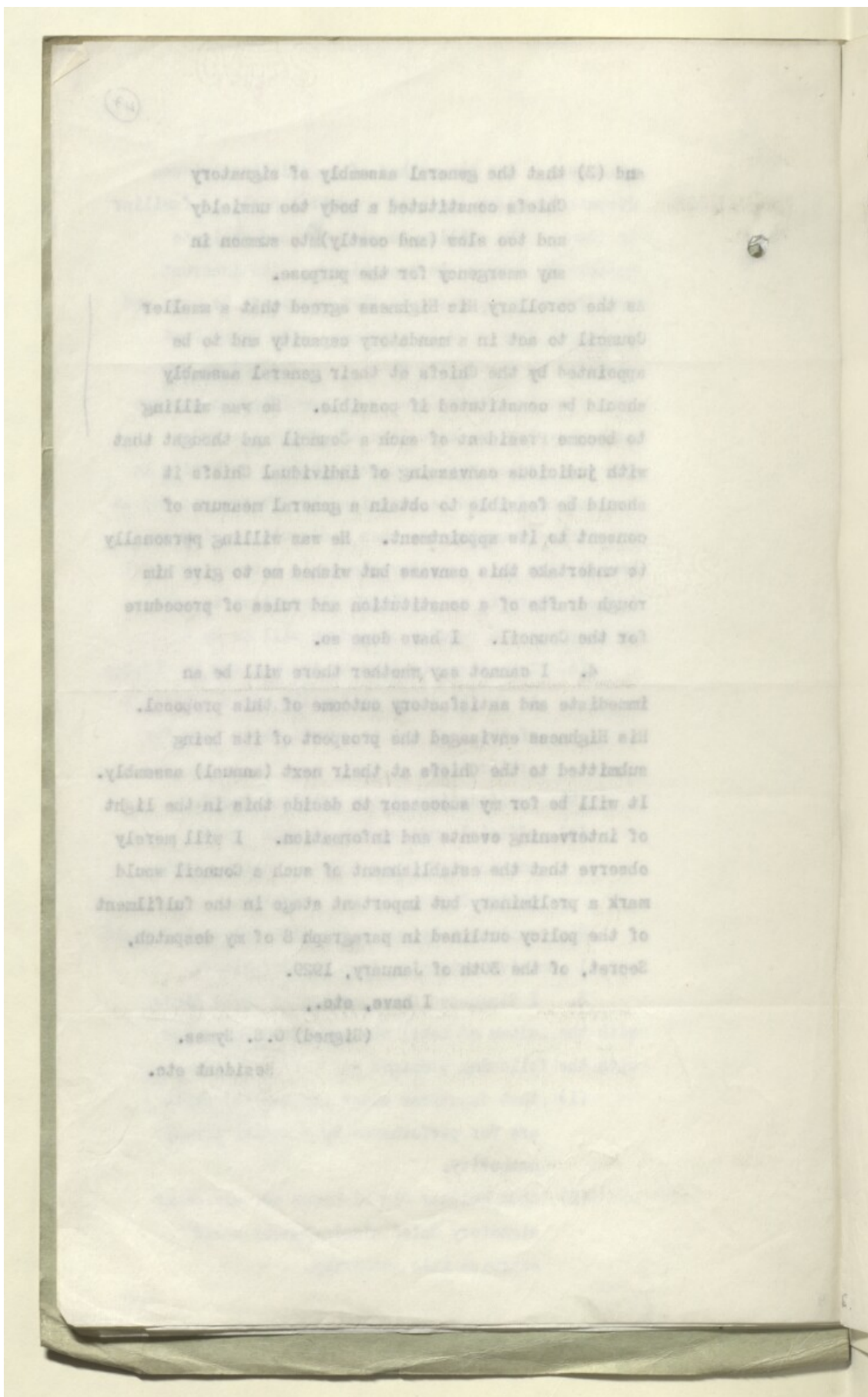
As the corollary His Highness agreed that a smaller
Council to act in a mandatory capacity and to be
appointed by the Chiefs at their general assembly
should be constituted if possible. He was willing
to become President of such a Council and thought that
with judicious canvassing of individual Chiefs it
should be feasible to obtain a general measure of
consent to its appointment. He was willing personally
to undertake this canvass but wished me to give him
rough drafts of a constitution and rules of procedure
for the Council. I have done so.

4. I cannot say whether there will be an
immediate and satisfactory outcome of this proposal.
His Highness envisaged the prospect of its being
submitted to the Chiefs at their next (annual) assembly.
It will be for my successor to decide this in the light
of intervening events and information. I will merely
observe that the establishment of such a Council would
mark a preliminary but important stage in the fulfilment
of the policy outlined in paragraph 8 of my despatch,
Secret, of the 30th of January, 1929.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) G.B. Symes.

Resident etc.





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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 41.

THE RESIDENCY,

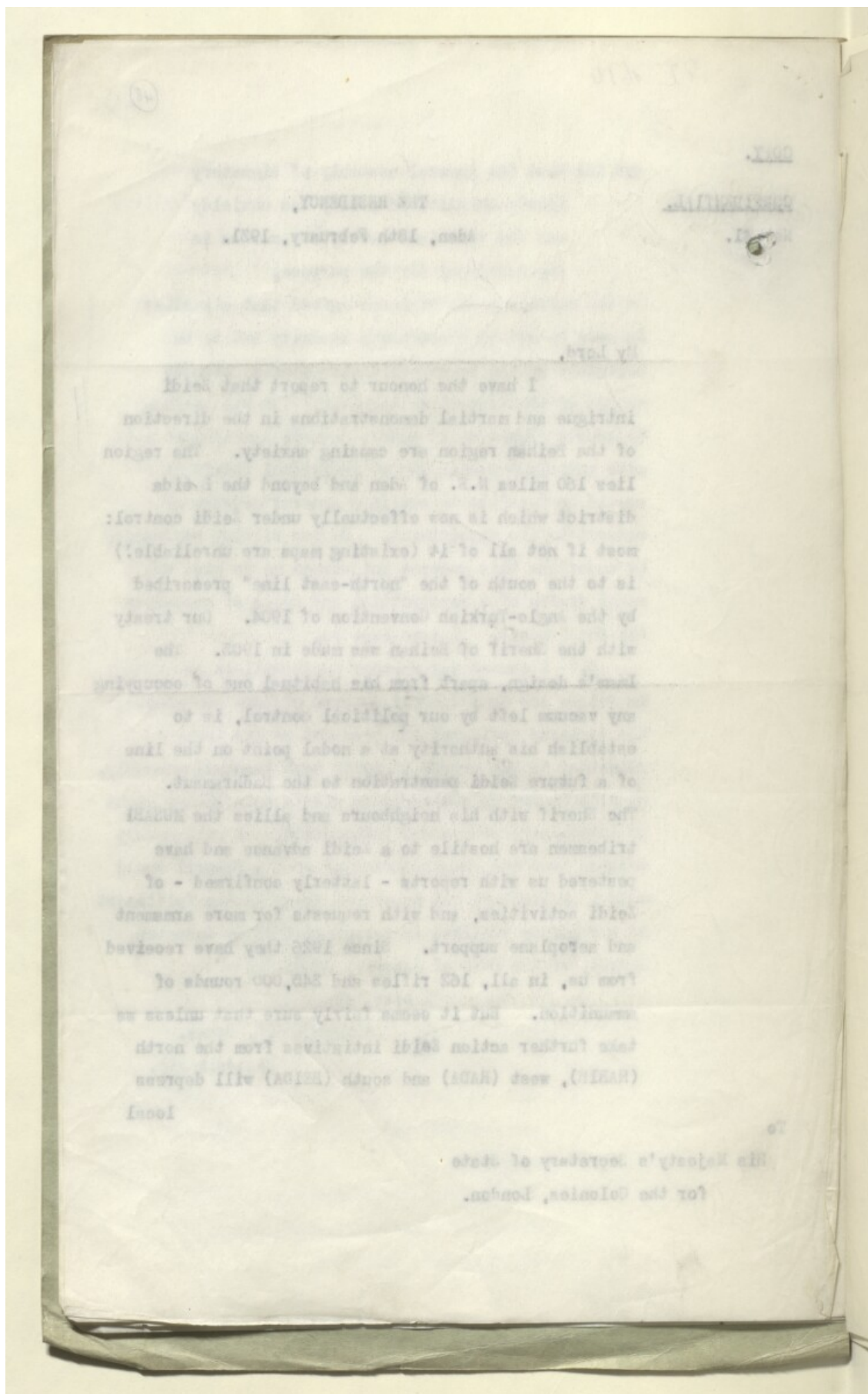
Aden, 18th February, 1931.

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that Zeidi intrigue and martial demonstrations in the direction of the Beihan region are causing anxiety. The region lies 160 miles N.E. of Aden and beyond the B-eida district which is now effectually under Zeidi control: most if not all of it (existing maps are unreliable!) is to the south of the "north-east line" prescribed by the Anglo-Turkish Convention of 1904. Our treaty with the Sherif of Beihan was made in 1903. The Imam's design, apart from his habitual one of occupying any vacuum left by our political control, is to establish his authority at a nodal point on the line of a future Zeidi penetration to the Hadhrmaut. The Sherif with his neighbours and allies the MUSABI tribesmen are hostile to a Zeidi advance and have pestered us with reports - latterly confirmed - of Zeidi activities, and with requests for more armament and aeroplane support. Since 1926 they have received from us, in all, 162 rifles and 345,000 rounds of ammunition. But it seems fairly sure that unless we take further action Zeidi initiatives from the north (HARIB), west (RADA) and south (BEIDA) will depress local

To

His Majesty's Secretary of State
for the Colonies, London.





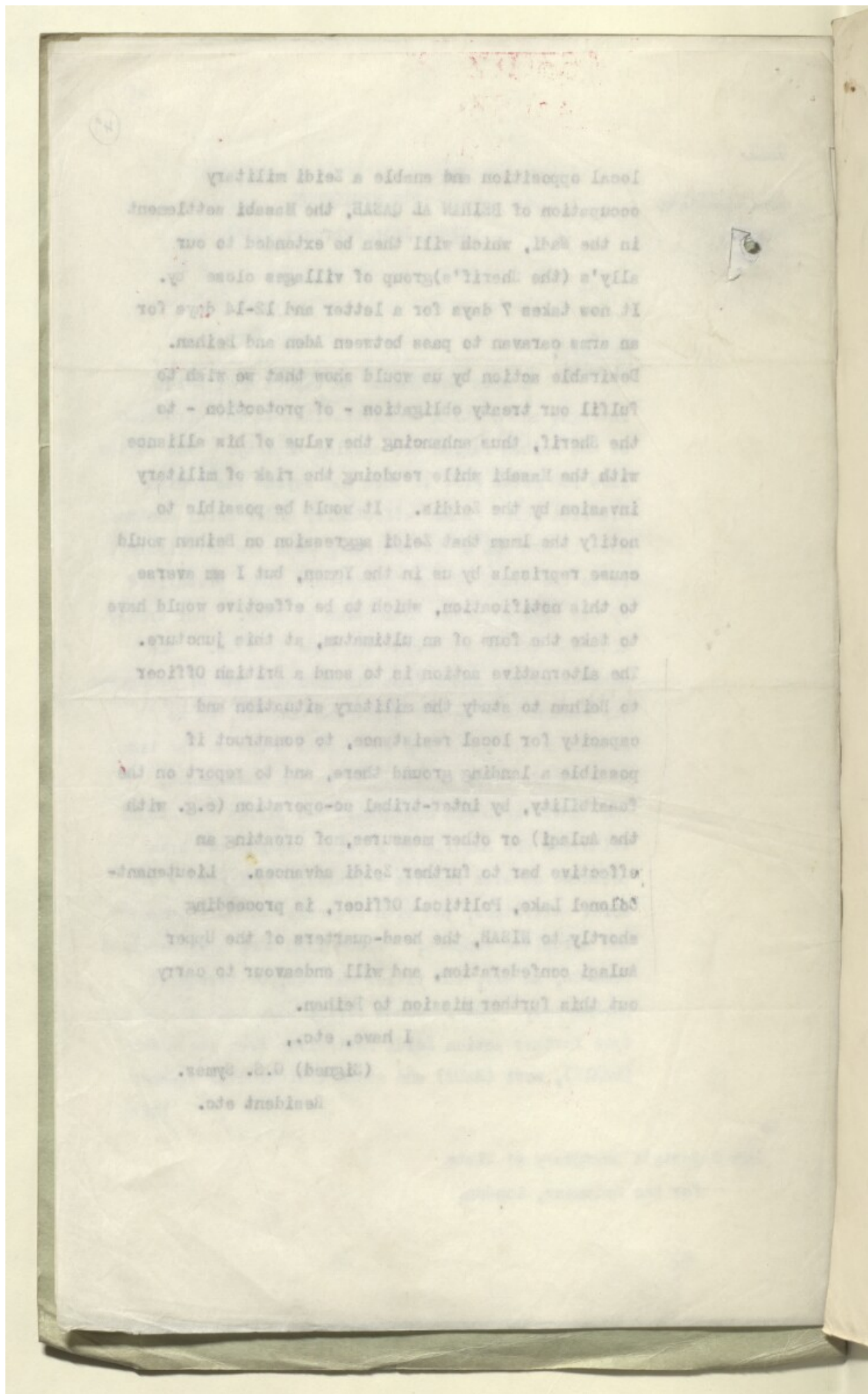
(49)

local opposition and enable a Zeidi military occupation of BEIHAN AL QASAB, the Masabi settlement in the Wadi, which will then be extended to our ally's (the Sherif's) group of villages close by. It now takes 7 days for a letter and 12-14 days for an arms caravan to pass between Aden and Beihan. Desirable action by us would show that we wish to fulfil our treaty obligation - of protection - to the Sherif, thus enhancing the value of his alliance with the Masabi while reducing the risk of military invasion by the Zeidis. It would be possible to notify the Imam that Zeidi aggression on Beihan would cause reprisals by us in the Yemen, but I am averse to this notification, which to be effective would have to take the form of an ultimatum, at this juncture. The alternative action is to send a British Officer to Beihan to study the military situation and capacity for local resistance, to construct if possible a landing ground there, and to report on the feasibility, by inter-tribal co-operation (e.g. with the Aulaqi) or other measures, of creating an effective bar to further Zeidi advances. Lieutenant-Colonel Lake, Political Officer, is proceeding shortly to NISAB, the head-quarters of the Upper Aulaqi confederation, and will endeavour to carry out this further mission to Beihan.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) G.S. Symes.

Resident etc.





Notes.

Register No.
P.2
1122/34

Minute Paper.

SECRET.
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Dated 19 .
Rec.

	Date.	Initials.	SUBJECT.
To			Adm Protectorate
Under Secretary	3.3.	hus	Policy of H.M.G. in regard to relations with the Protectorate tribes.
Secretary of State...		Uha	
Committee.....	9		Proposal that, when necessary, pressure should be exerted on individual chiefs by means of tribal combinations.
Under Secretary.....			
Secretary of State...			

Copy of to

FOR INFORMATION.

This idea is explained in the passage marked on page 2 of the Report from Sir G. Lymington -

It will be seen that Sir G. Lymington (para 3) has informed the Upper Jafa chiefs that their existing treaties would be terminated

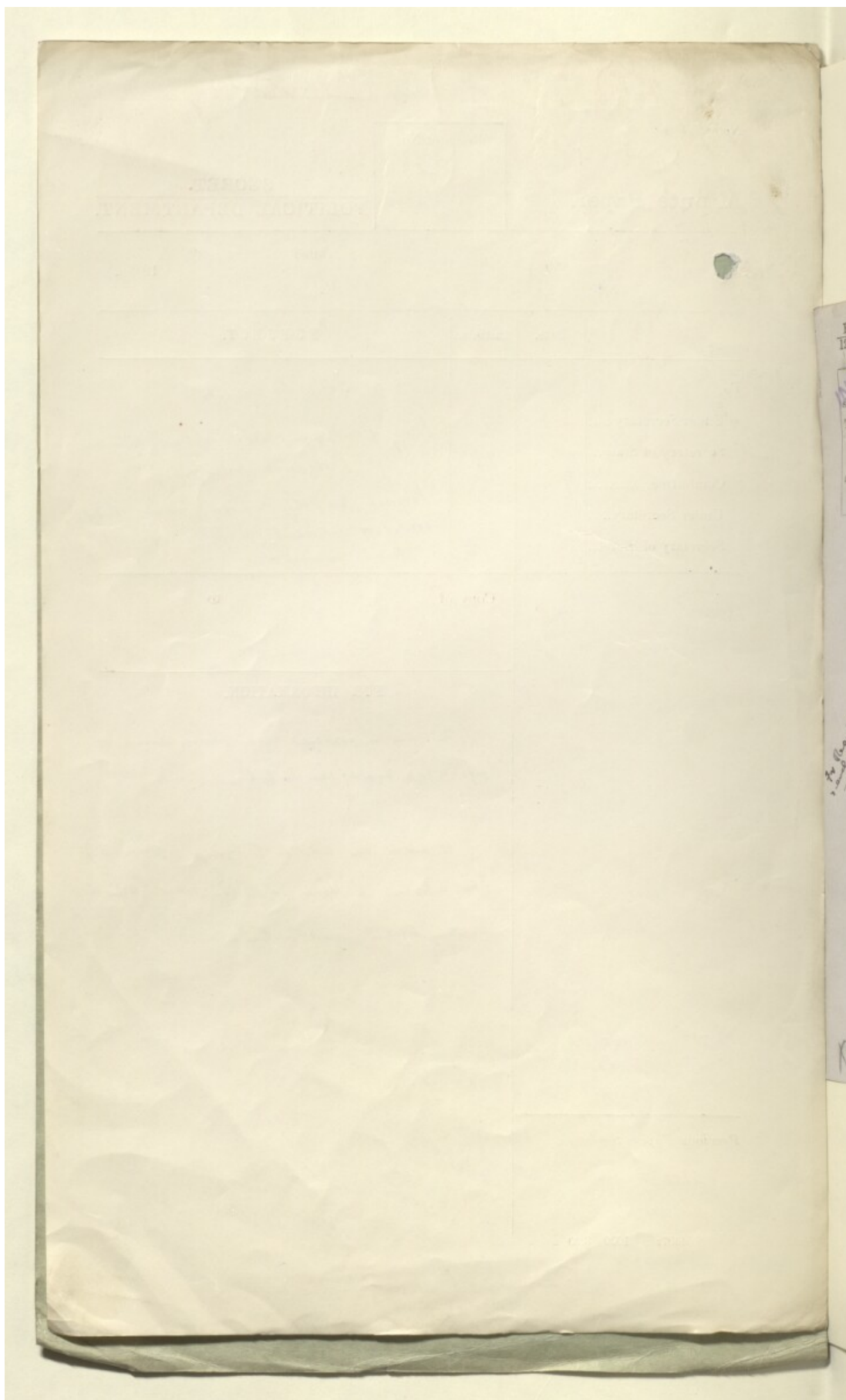
Sound, provided its festive Centre, 1. 10.3

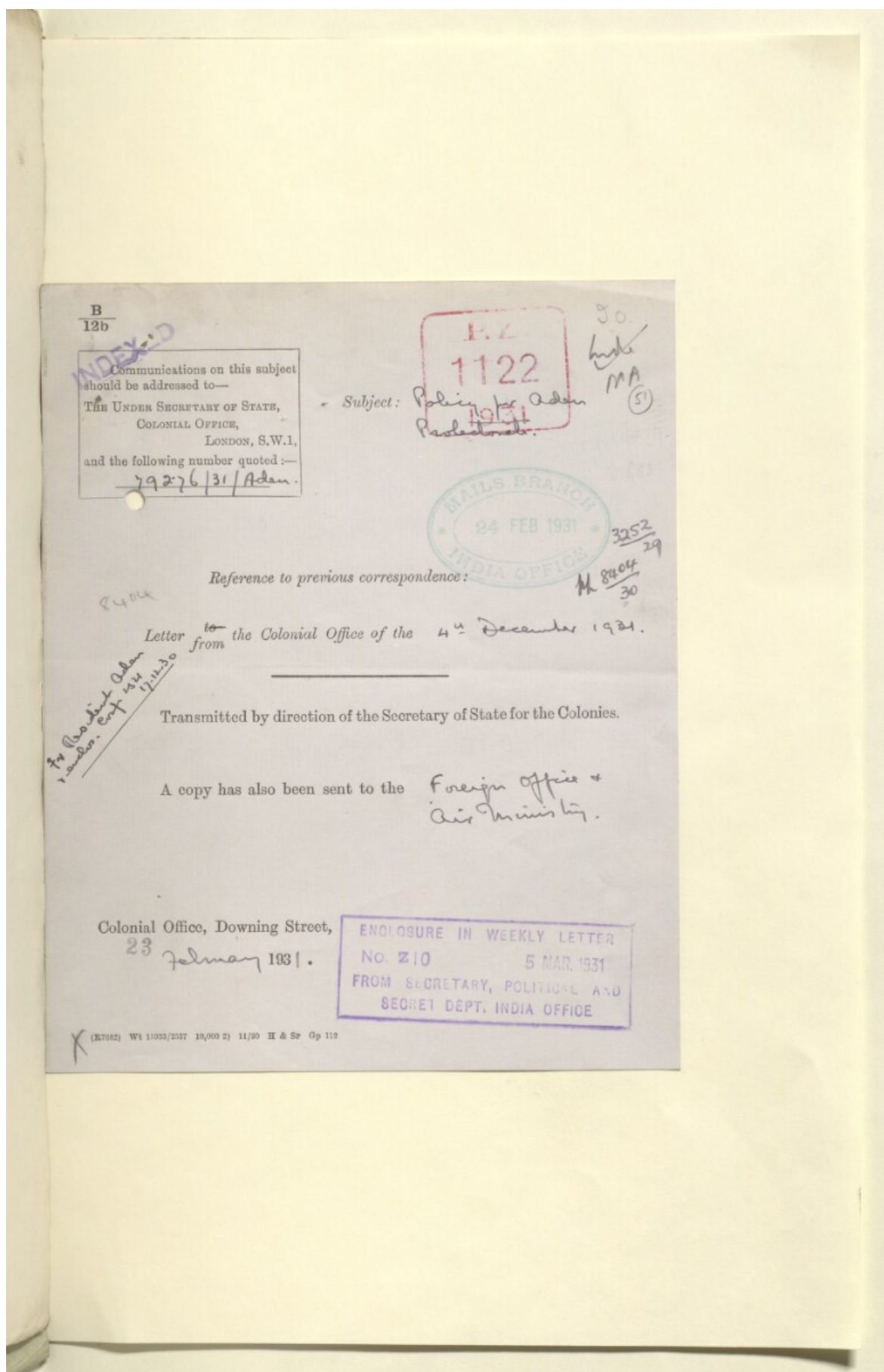
10.3 15.11.2

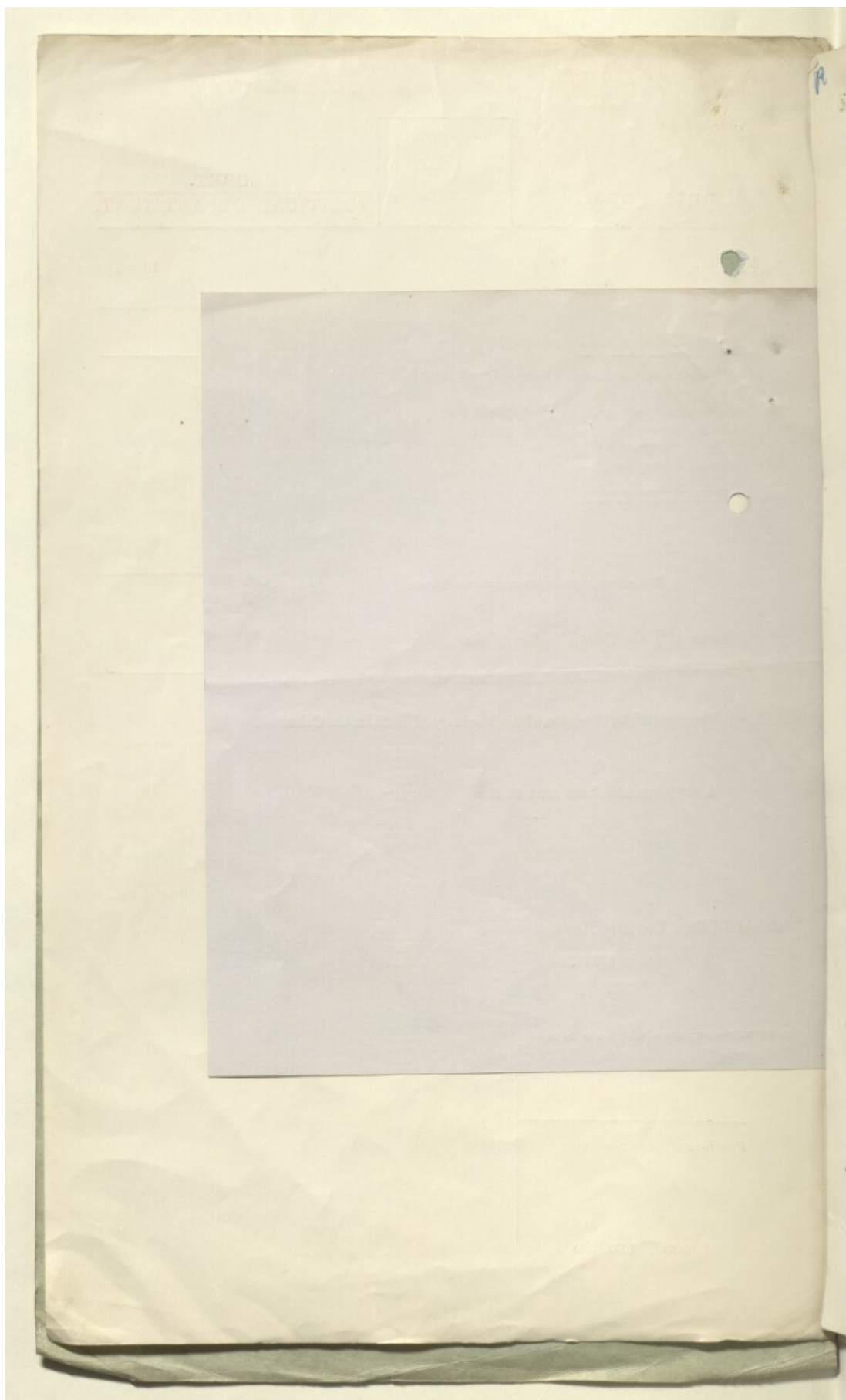
SEEN
POLITICAL COMMITTEE.
11 MAR 1931

Previous Papers :--
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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 254.

The Residency,
Aden.

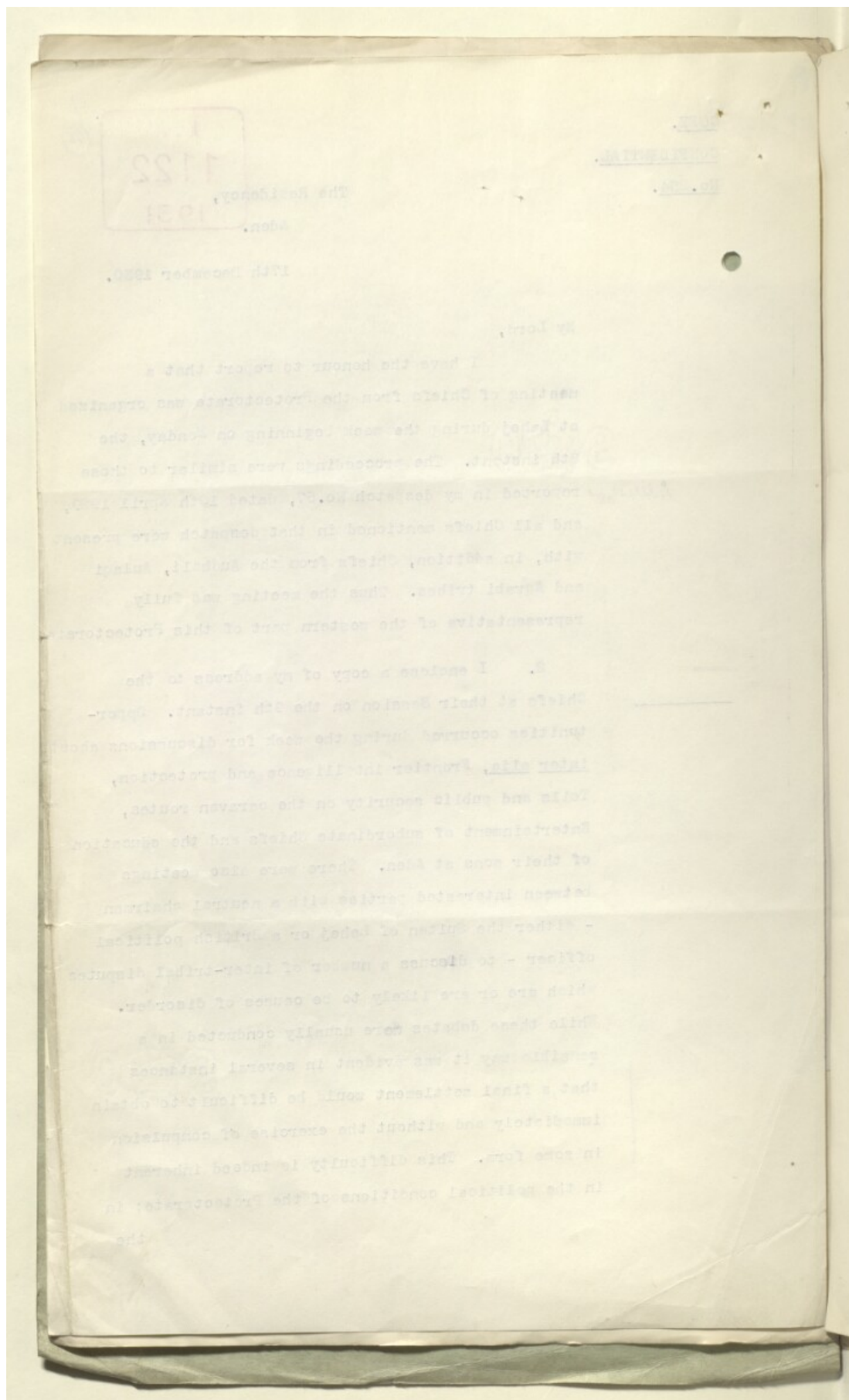
1122
1931

17th December 1930.

My Lord,

I have the honour to report that a meeting of Chiefs from the Protectorate was organized at Lahej during the week beginning on Monday, the 8th instant. The proceedings were similar to those reported in my despatch No. 57, dated 10th April 1929, and all Chiefs mentioned in that despatch were present with, in addition, Chiefs from the Audhali, Aulaqi and Aqrabi tribes. Thus the meeting was fully representative of the western part of this Protectorate.

2. I enclose a copy of my address to the Chiefs at their Session on the 9th instant. Opportunities occurred during the week for discussions about, inter alia, Frontier intelligence and protection, Tolls and public security on the caravan routes, Entertainment of subordinate Chiefs and the education of their sons at Aden. There were also meetings between interested parties with a neutral chairman - either the Sultan of Lahej or a British political officer - to discuss a number of inter-tribal disputes which are or are likely to be causes of disorder. While these debates were usually conducted in a sensible way it was evident in several instances that a final settlement would be difficult to obtain immediately and without the exercise of compulsion in some form. This difficulty is indeed inherent in the political conditions of the Protectorate; in
the

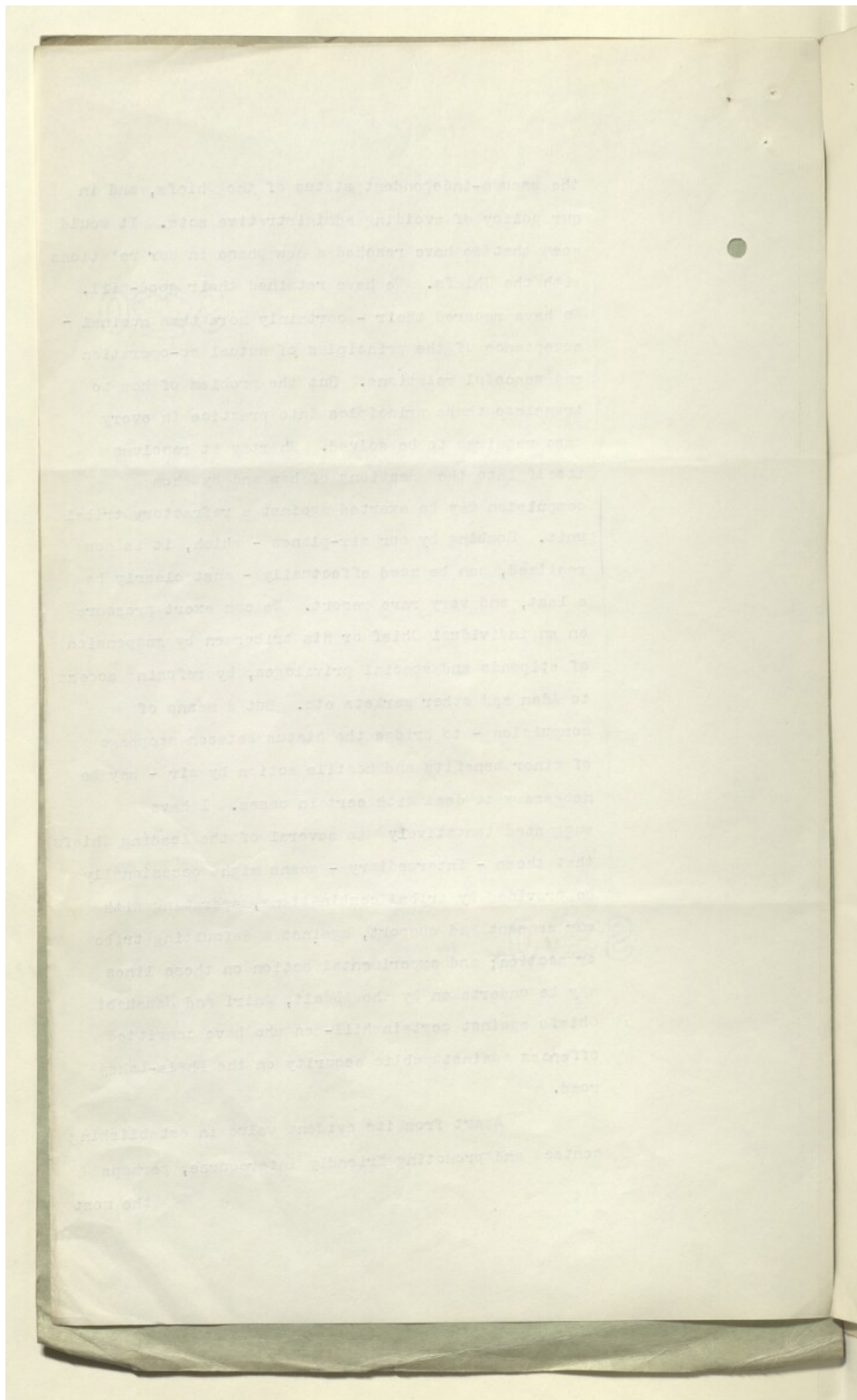




(53) 2

the pseudo-independent status of the Chiefs, and in our policy of avoiding administrative acts. It would seem that we have reached a new phase in our relations with the Chiefs. We have retained their good-will. We have secured their - certainly more than nominal - acceptance of the principles of mutual co-operation and peaceful relations. But the problem of how to translate these principles into practice in every case requires to be solved. Shortly it resolves itself into the questions of how and by whom compulsion may be exerted against a refractory tribal unit. Bombing by our air-planes - which, it is now realized, can be used effectually - must clearly be a last, and very rare resort. We can exert pressure on an individual Chief or his tribesmen by suspension of stipends and special privileges, by refusing access to Aden and other markets etc. But a means of compulsion - to bridge the hiatus between stoppage of minor benefits and hostile action by air - may be necessary to deal with certain cases. I have suggested tentatively to several of the leading Chiefs that these - intermediary - means might occasionally be provided by tribal combinations, operating with our consent and support, against a defaulting tribe or section; and experimental action on these lines may be undertaken by the Abdali, Amiri and Haushabi Chiefs against certain hill-men who have committed offences against public security on the Dhala-Lahej road.

Apart from its evident value in establishing contact and promoting friendly intercourse, perhaps
the most





(54) 3
the most satisfactory outcome of this (second) Conference of Chiefs has been the evidences of their recognition of the need for corporate action, and of their readiness to examine means of overcoming the practical difficulties of their situation.

P. 8404/30.
3. The leading Chiefs of the Upper Yafa tribe were present at Lahej but time did not admit of detailed discussion of the matters referred to in your despatch of 1st December 1930. I informed them that their existing treaties would be terminated and they have agreed to come to Aden this week to discuss the question of their future relations with Government.

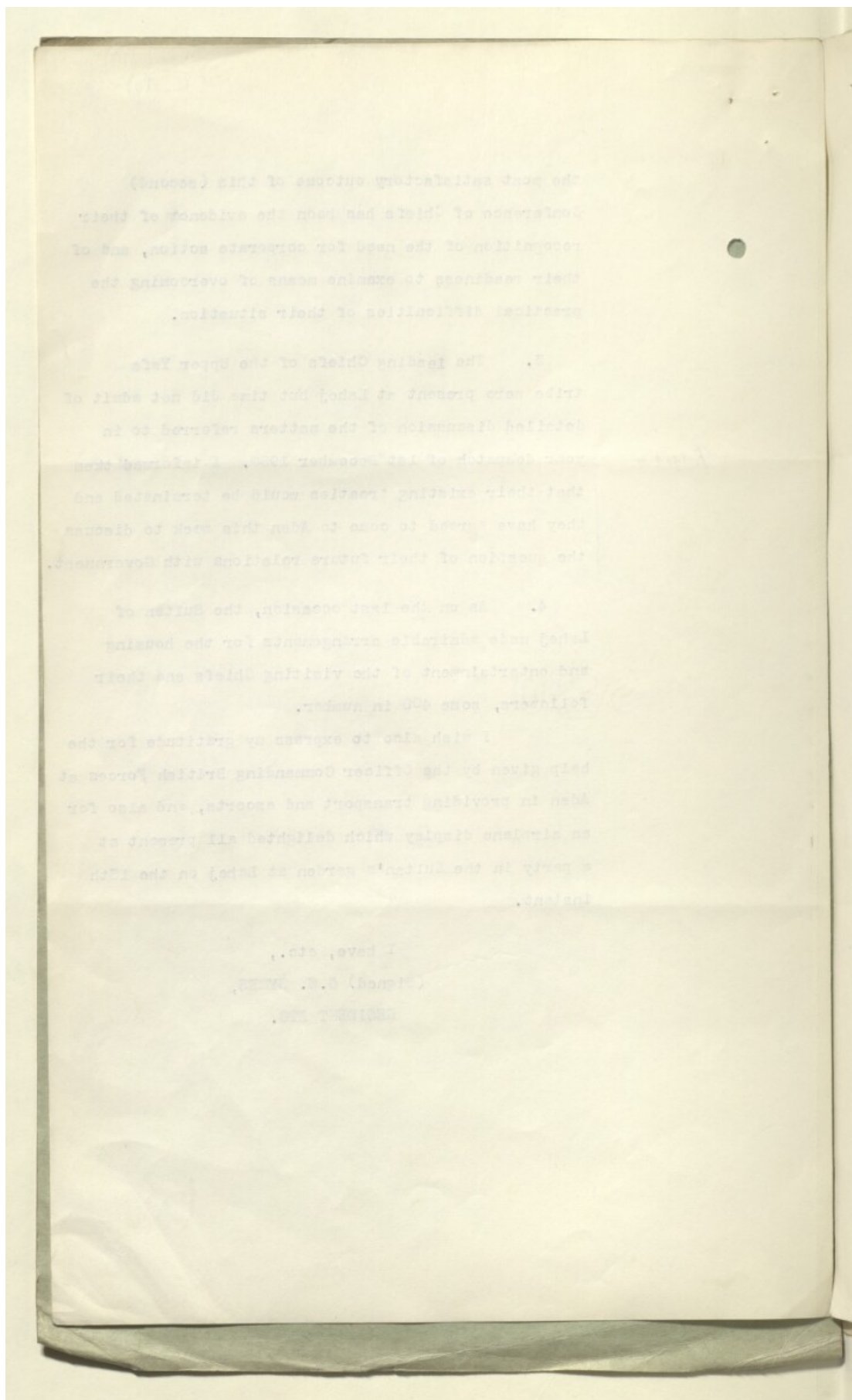
4. As on the last occasion, the Sultan of Lahej made admirable arrangements for the housing and entertainment of the visiting Chiefs and their followers, some 400 in number.

I wish also to express my gratitude for the help given by the Officer Commanding British Forces at Aden in providing transport and escorts, and also for an airplane display which delighted all present at a party in the Sultan's garden at Lahej on the 13th instant.

I have, etc.,

(Signed) G.S. SYMES,

RESIDENT ETC.





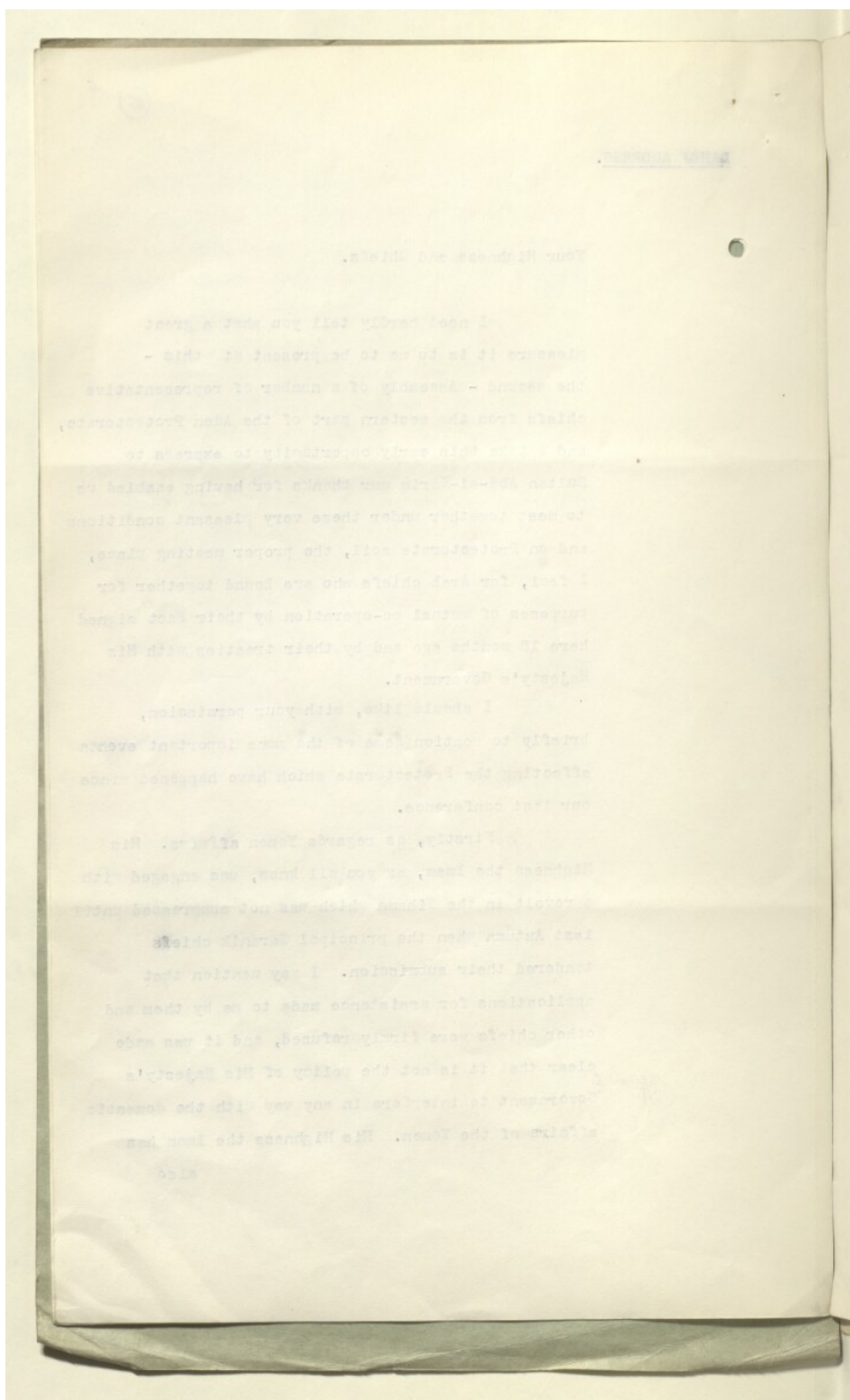
(55) 4
LAHEJ ADDRESS.

Your Highness and Chiefs.

I need hardly tell you what a great pleasure it is to me to be present at this - the second - Assembly of a number of representative chiefs from the western part of the Aden Protectorate, and I take this early opportunity to express to Sultan Abd-el-Karim our thanks for having enabled us to meet together under these very pleasant conditions and on Protectorate soil, the proper meeting place, I feel, for Arab chiefs who are bound together for purposes of mutual co-operation by their Pact signed here 18 months ago and by their treaties with His Majesty's Government.

I should like, with your permission, briefly to mention some of the more important events affecting the Protectorate which have happened since our last conference.

Firstly, as regards Yemen affairs. His Highness the Imam, as you all know, was engaged with a revolt in the Tihama which was not suppressed until last Autumn when the principal Zaranik chiefs tendered their submission. I may mention that applications for assistance made to me by them and other chiefs were firmly refused, and it was made clear that it is not the policy of His Majesty's Government to interfere in any way with the domestic affairs of the Yemen. His Highness the Imam has also

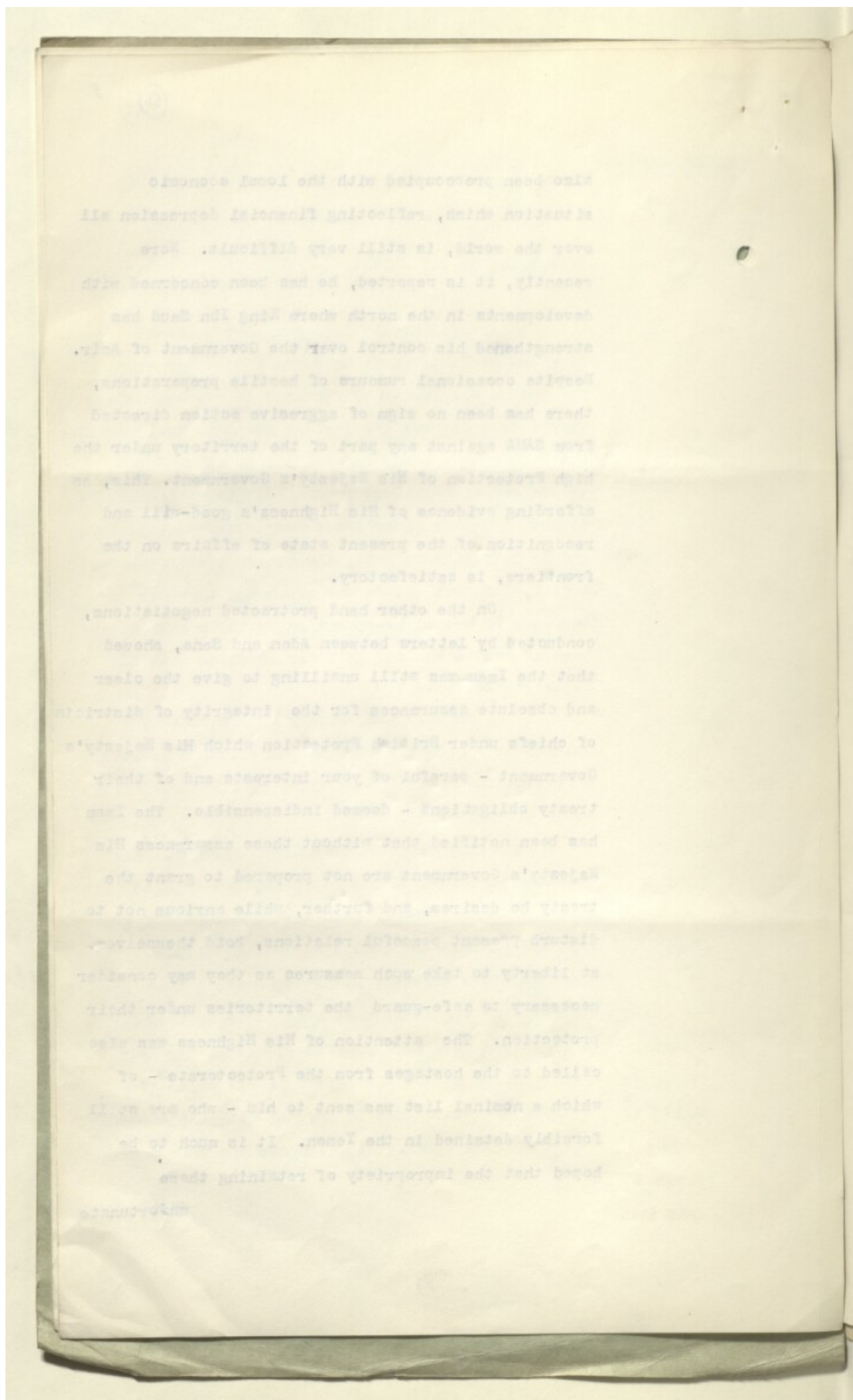




(56) 5
also been preoccupied with the local economic situation which, reflecting financial depression all over the world, is still very difficult. More recently, it is reported, he has been concerned with developments in the north where King Ibn Saud has strengthened his control over the Government of Asir. Despite occasional rumours of hostile preparations, there has been no sign of aggressive action directed from SANA against any part of the territory under the high Protection of His Majesty's Government. This, as affording evidence of His Highness's good-will and recognition of the present state of affairs on the frontiers, is satisfactory.

On the other hand protracted negotiations, conducted by letters between Aden and Sana, shewed that the Imam was still unwilling to give the clear and absolute assurances for the integrity of districts of chiefs under British Protection which His Majesty's Government - careful of your interests and of their treaty obligations - deemed indispensable. The Imam has been notified that without these assurances His Majesty's Government are not prepared to grant the treaty he desires, and further, while anxious not to disturb present peaceful relations, hold themselves at liberty to take such measures as they may consider necessary to safe-guard the territories under their protection. The attention of His Highness was also called to the hostages from the Protectorate - of which a nominal list was sent to him - who are still forcibly detained in the Yemen. It is much to be hoped that the impropriety of retaining these

unfortunate



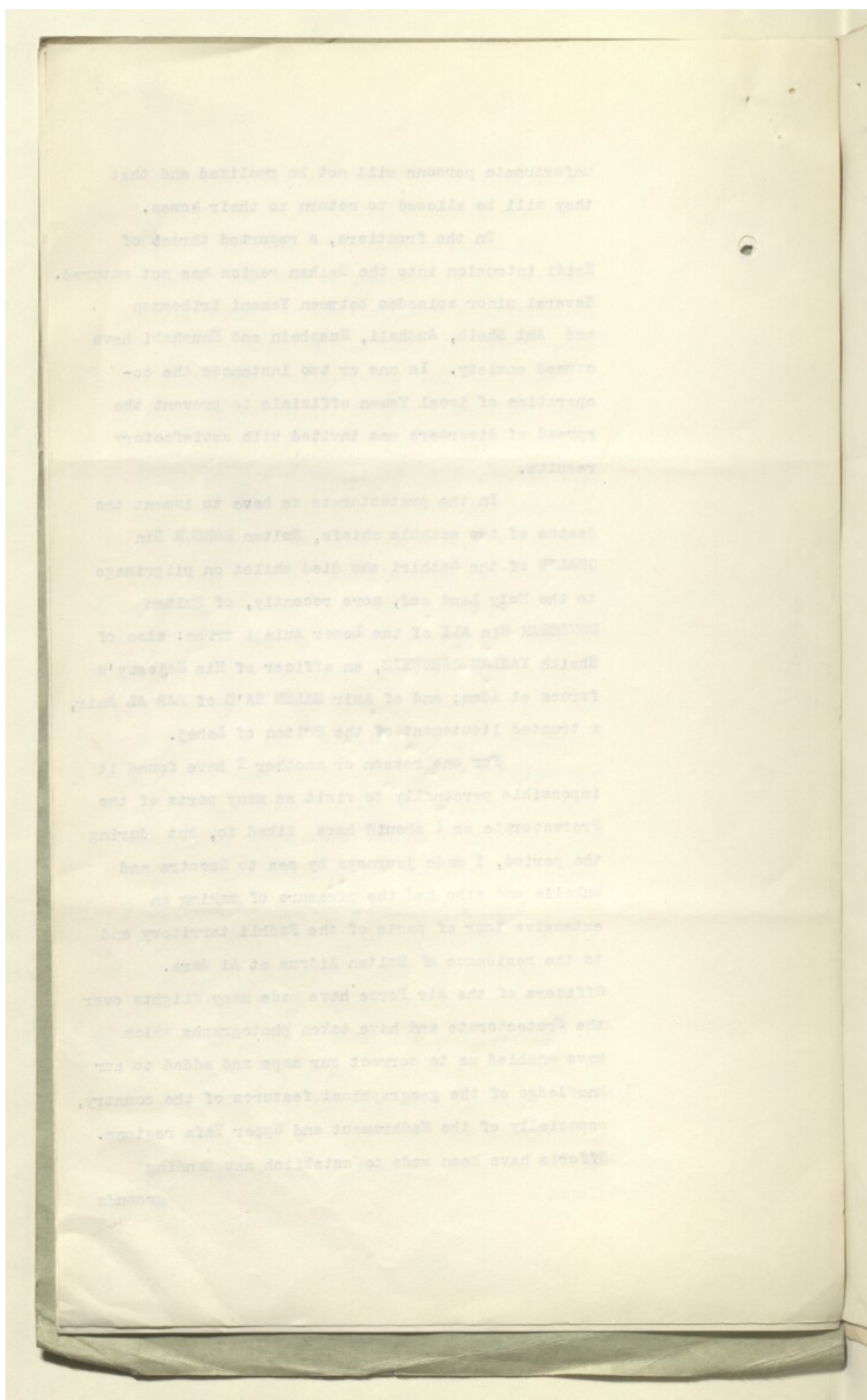


(57) 6
unfortunate persons will not be realised and that they will be allowed to return to their homes.

On the frontiers, a reported threat of Zeidi intrusion into the Beihan region has not matured. Several minor episodes between Yemeni tribesmen and Ahl Shaib, Audhali, Musabein and Haushabi have caused anxiety. In one or two instances the co-operation of local Yemen officials to prevent the spread of disorders was invited with satisfactory results.

In the protectorate we have to lament the deaths of two notable chiefs, Sultan MANSUR Bin GHALIB of the Kathiri who died whilst on pilgrimage to the Holy Land and, more recently, of Sultan MUNASSAR Bin ALI of the Lower Aulaqi tribe: also of Shaikh YASLAM BARUWEIS, an officer of His Majesty's forces at Aden; and of Amir SALEH SA'D of DAR AL Amir, a trusted lieutenant of the Sultan of Lahej.

For one reason or another I have found it impossible personally to visit as many parts of the Protectorate as I should have liked to, but during the period, I made journeys by sea to Socotra and Mukalla and also had the pleasure of making an extensive tour of parts of the Fadhlī territory and to the residence of Sultan Aidrus at Al Qara. Officers of the Air Force have made many flights over the Protectorate and have taken photographs which have enabled us to correct our maps and added to our knowledge of the geographical features of the country, especially of the Hadhramaut and Upper Yafa regions. Efforts have been made to establish new landing grounds

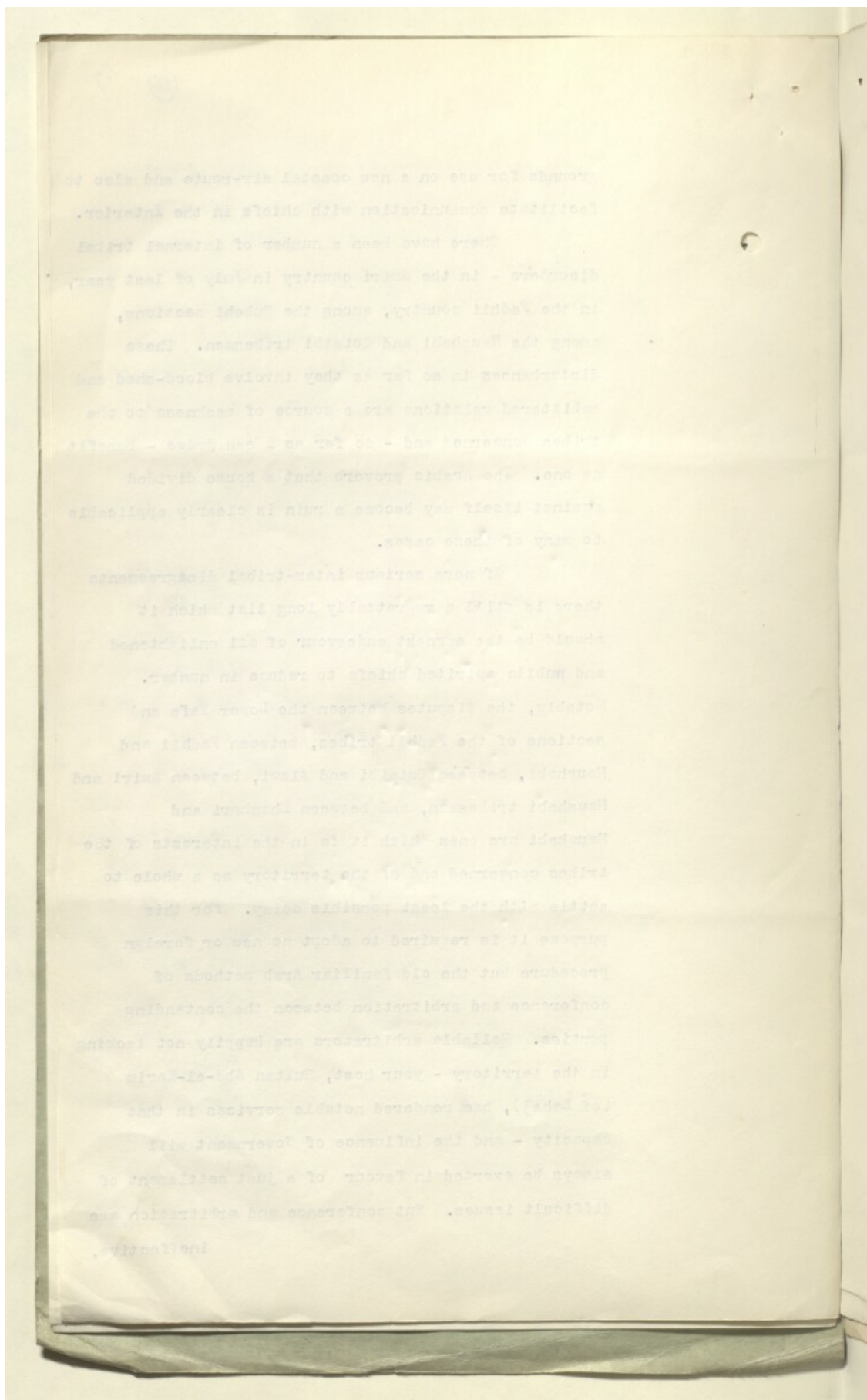




(58) 7
grounds for use on a new coastal air-route and also to facilitate communication with chiefs in the Interior.

There have been a number of internal tribal disorders - in the Amiri country in July of last year, in the Fadhli country, among the Subehi sections, among the Haushabi and Qotaibi tribesmen. These disturbances in so far as they involve blood-shed and embittered relations are a source of weakness to the tribes concerned and - so far as I can judge - benefit no one. The Arabic proverb that a house divided against itself may become a ruin is clearly applicable to many of these cases.

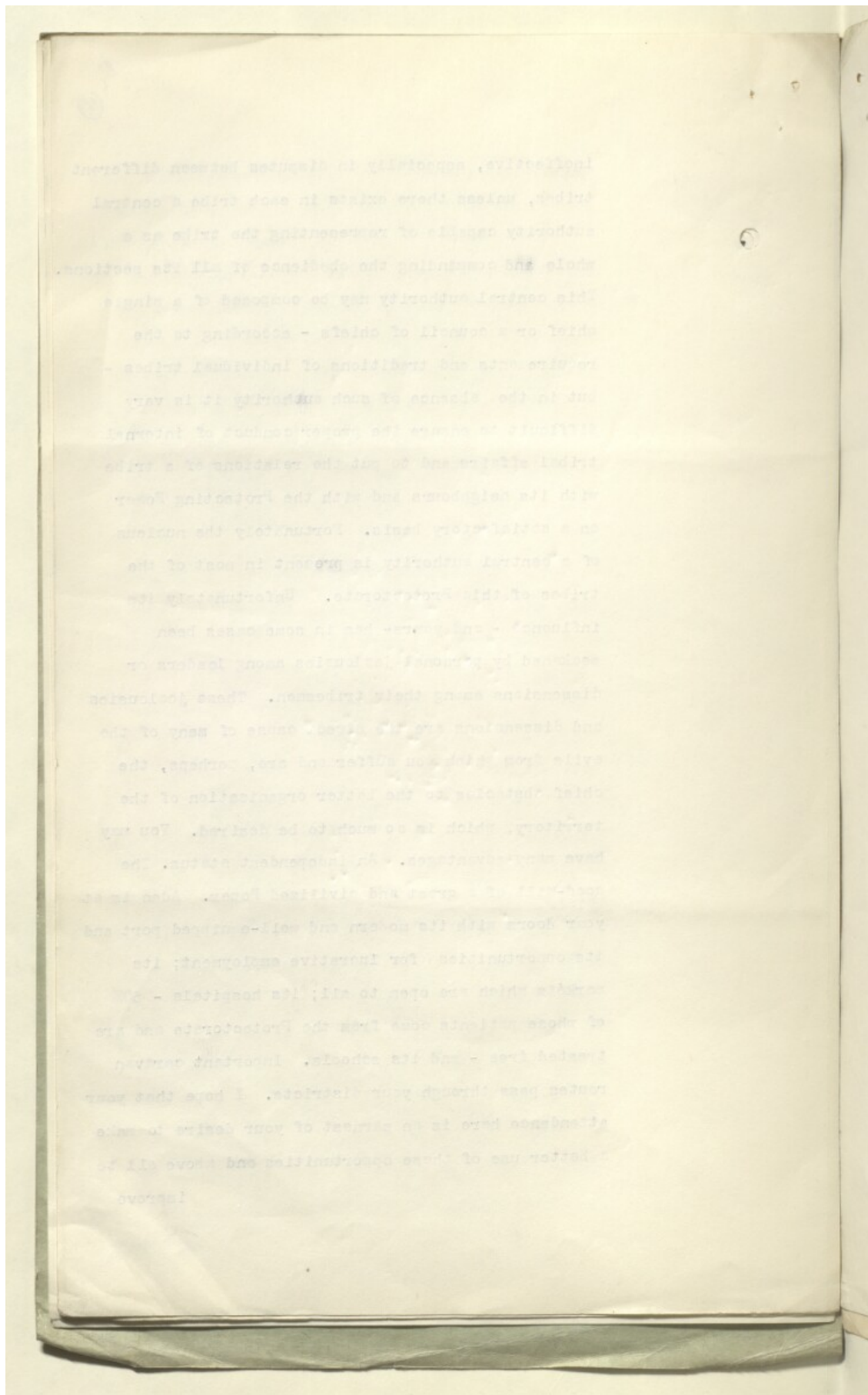
Of more serious inter-tribal disagreements there is still a regrettably long list which it should be the earnest endeavour of all enlightened and public spirited chiefs to reduce in number. Notably, the disputes between the Lower Yafa and sections of the Fadhli tribes, between Fadhli and Haushabi, between Qotaibi and Alawi, between Amiri and Haushabi tribesmen, and between Dhambari and Haushabi are ones which it is in the interests of the tribes concerned and of the territory as a whole to settle with the least possible delay. For this purpose it is required to adopt no new or foreign procedure but the old familiar Arab methods of conference and arbitration between the contending parties. Reliable arbitrators are happily not lacking in the territory - your host, Sultan Abd-el-Karim (of Lahej), has rendered notable services in that capacity - and the influence of Government will always be exerted in favour of a just settlement of difficult issues. But conference and arbitration are ineffective,





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(59)

ineffective, especially in disputes between different tribes, unless there exists in each tribe a central authority capable of representing the tribe as a whole and commanding the obedience of all its sections. This central authority may be composed of a single chief or a council of chiefs - according to the requirements and traditions of individual tribes - but in the absence of such authority it is very difficult to ensure the proper conduct of internal tribal affairs and to put the relations of a tribe with its neighbours and with the Protecting Power on a satisfactory basis. Fortunately the nucleus of a central authority is present in most of the tribes of this Protectorate. Unfortunately its influence - and yours - has in some cases been weakened by personal jealousies among leaders or dissensions among their tribesmen. These jealousies and dissensions are the direct cause of many of the evils from which you suffer and are, perhaps, the chief obstacles to the better organization of the territory, which is so much to be desired. You may have many advantages. An independent status. The good-will of a great and civilized Power. Aden is at your doors with its modern and well-equipped port and its opportunities for lucrative employment; its markets which are open to all; its hospitals - 60% of whose patients come from the Protectorate and are treated free - and its schools. Important caravan routes pass through your districts. I hope that your attendance here is an earnest of your desire to make a better use of these opportunities and above all to improve





9 (60)
improve the administrations of your districts in order to create that security of life and property and improvement of communications which can provide a basis for increased prosperity in the future. In this endeavour as in all that pertains to the public welfare you can count on my good-will and personal interest, and I earnestly hope that your meeting and discussions here will have valuable results.

